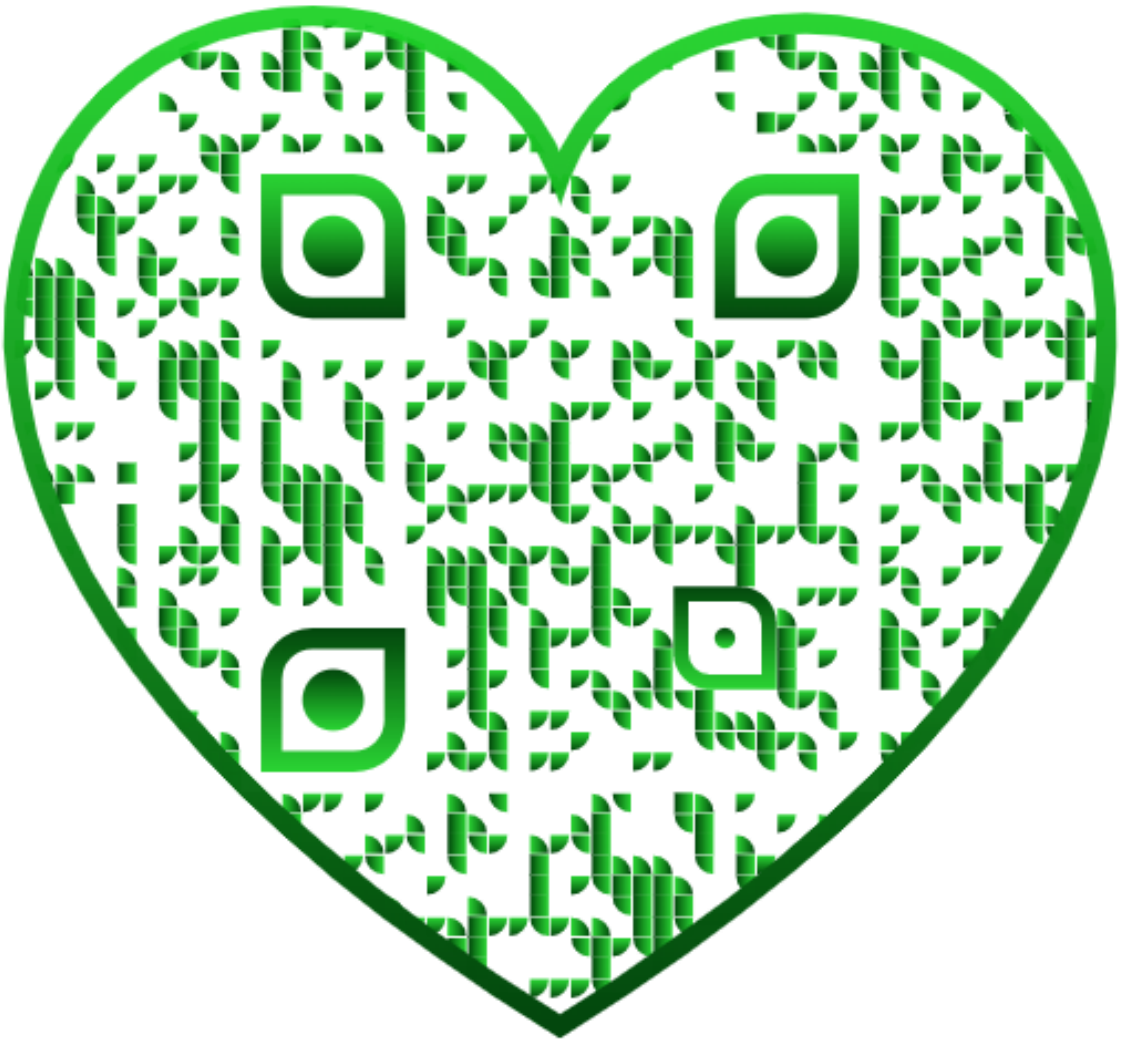
3 JUNE 2016 / FREE EVERY FRIDAY

NME

AN EVENING WITH PETE DOHERTY

MUSIC
FILM
STYLE



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NME

Hello...

SEEING PETE Doherty on the cover of *NME* in nothing but a trilby and his grundies reminded me of the time myself and resident Libertines expert Matt Wilkinson (who also wrote this week's cover story) visited him in Paris to chat through plans for the 10-year anniversary of 'Up The Bracket'.

We'd arranged to meet in a little bar just off Rue De Rome and, as always, Pete was late. Three hours after he was supposed to turn up, a bike came flying around the corner with Pete in the saddle, his legs flung out wide like Frank Spencer, his dirty trackie bottoms flapping in the wind. On top he wore a ringmasters jacket and a complementary top hat, which he took off to salute us as he bombed straight past.

Ten minutes later he arrived back at the bar, no sign of the bike, the hat or the jacket. Twenty minutes after that he'd bombed off again to get ready for that night's gig, which was equal parts genius and car crash. Classic Pete.

Anyway, it's good to have him back in *NME*. The world is a more interesting place with a fit, happy and prolific Pete in it, and hopefully he's well on the way to being all of those things again.

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike

Spring King p24

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A true rock'n'roll bohemian invites us to his hotel room for a chat – and a shower?

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Meet the Mancunian misfits hoping to become your new favourite band

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Sex-fuelled funk heroes or sad old pervs? We make the case for and against

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COVER: ROGER SARGENT. CONTENTS: BEN BENTLEY

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AGENDA

T EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

The Pyramid Stage

One month till Glasto!

The final acts have been announced, including Tame Impala. It's time to get very, very excited

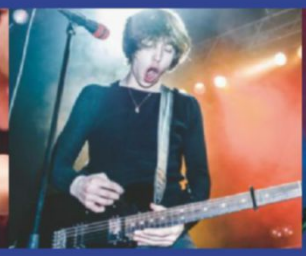
IT'S LESS THAN A MONTH UNTIL THE ANNUAL pilgrimage to Pilton and the holiest of all music festivals – Glastonbury. Excited? You should be. This week has seen the last bunch of acts announced for June 22-26 and boasts headline sets from Coldplay, Adele and Muse, as well as Skepta, PJ Harvey, Disclosure and LCD Soundsystem.

Whether you're one of the 130,000 lucky enough to have a ticket or there in spirit, you can follow the whole thing with *NME*, including news, reviews, photos and tips on where to camp, what to eat and who to see.

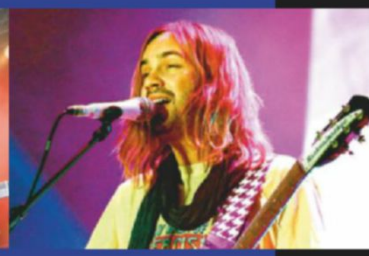
More bands added

These excellent acts have just joined the line-up

ALESSIA CARA
Cara has performed in the UK only a handful of times. Catchy single 'Wild Things' and the Isaac Hayes-sampling 'Here' from her spectacular debut album 'Know-It-All' will be highlights.



CATFISH AND THE BOTTLEMEN
There'll be mosh pits, singalongs and expert crowd banter from charismatic frontman Van McCann – especially with new album 'The Ride' now out.



TAME IMPALA
The Aussie psych overlords will open for Adele on the Pyramid Stage. Their recent UK tour was a triumph. Expect a killer atmosphere, psychedelic lasers and confetti.

WORDS: LEONIE COOPER. PHOTOS: REX FEATURES, ANDY HUGHES, GETTY IMAGES

This means war

Moon director Duncan Jones has turned dangerously addictive video game _Warcraft_ into a film. Toby Kebbell, who plays the orc Durotan, takes us inside the adaptation

ALTHOUGH FILMS BASED ON video games are often greeted with suspicion, *Warcraft* arrives on a massive wave of anticipation from both movie buffs and the gaming faithful. That's partly because the *Warcraft* franchise has been big business for over 20 years, attracting 12 million online subscribers at its peak. "I was always aware of how truly huge the game was," says British actor Toby Kebbell, who brings the hulking character of Durotan to life with a highly skilled performance. It's also because the film boasts a genuinely credible director: Duncan Jones, the man behind intelligent sci-fi flicks *Moon* and *Source Code*. "He was very capable of making the film he saw in the script – taking it through the process of production and still coming out with the film as he envisioned it," says Kebbell. In an era of big-budget films being altered in the editing suite, against the director's wishes, that's some accomplishment.

Kebbell, known for his roles in *Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes* and *War Horse* as well as Charlie Brooker's *Black Mirror*, says he was attracted to *Warcraft* by both Jones and the meatiness of his role. "This was an opportunity to play a character who's trying to behave in a certain way before something big happens and he just flips over," he says. "He's so rich and the beauty of motion capture is you get to play a very detailed character. Once they're not worrying about whether your face sells tickets, you really are in that process of getting to do as much with the character as you possibly can."

Though Kebbell obviously relied heavily on his own imagination while shooting the film in a motion capture suit against a green screen, he says he was helped by a full-sized bust of Durotan that took pride of place on set. "He was very impressive standing at full height. I got into a habit of patting his head every time I walked past."

Toby Kebbell is dwarfed by his Warcraft character Durotan

Pixel perfect?

A brief, but chequered, history of Hollywood's flirtations with gaming

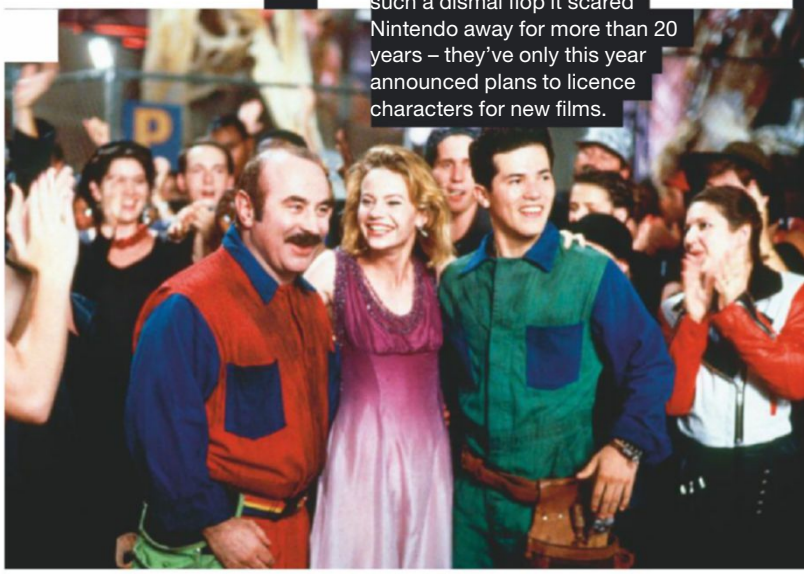
THE ONE THAT DID EVERYTHING WRONG

SUPER MARIO BROS 1993

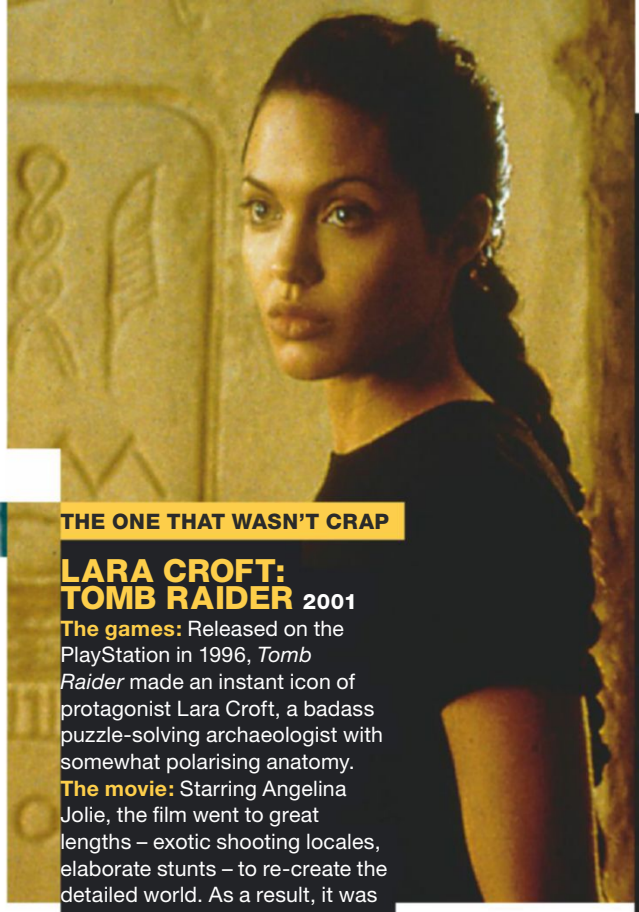
The games: A sprawling, joyful gaming empire that made unlikely icons out of a tubby plumber and his lanky brother, with valuable lessons to teach about the properties of mushrooms, the aerodynamism of bunny ears and that, while turtles should be crushed, dinosaurs are adorable.

The movie: Load of old goombas. It was rewritten constantly throughout filming, bore only a vague resemblance to the game, and Bob Hoskins (Mario) and John Leguizamo (an unforgivably moustache-free Luigi) found the experience so unpleasant they spent the majority of its filming pissed.

What it did: Hollywood's first foray into video game adaptations was such a dismal flop it scared Nintendo away for more than 20 years – they've only this year announced plans to licence characters for new films.



WORDS: NICK LEVINE AND MIKE HAMPTON PHOTOS: GETTY, WENN, REX



THE ONE THAT WASN'T CRAP

LARA CROFT: TOMB RAIDER 2001

The games: Released on the PlayStation in 1996, *Tomb Raider* made an instant icon of protagonist Lara Croft, a badass puzzle-solving archaeologist with somewhat polarising anatomy.
The movie: Starring Angelina Jolie, the film went to great lengths – exotic shooting locales, elaborate stunts – to re-create the detailed world. As a result, it was the first genuine game-based hit, making over a quarter of a billion dollars at the box office.
What it did: Proved that game adaptations don't have to stink. Also struck an unlikely blow for feminism, briefly holding the record for the highest opening-weekend gross for a movie with a female protagonist, thanks to its fully-rounded (shut up), three-dimensional character.

THE ONE THAT PUT PLAYERS IN THE PICTURE

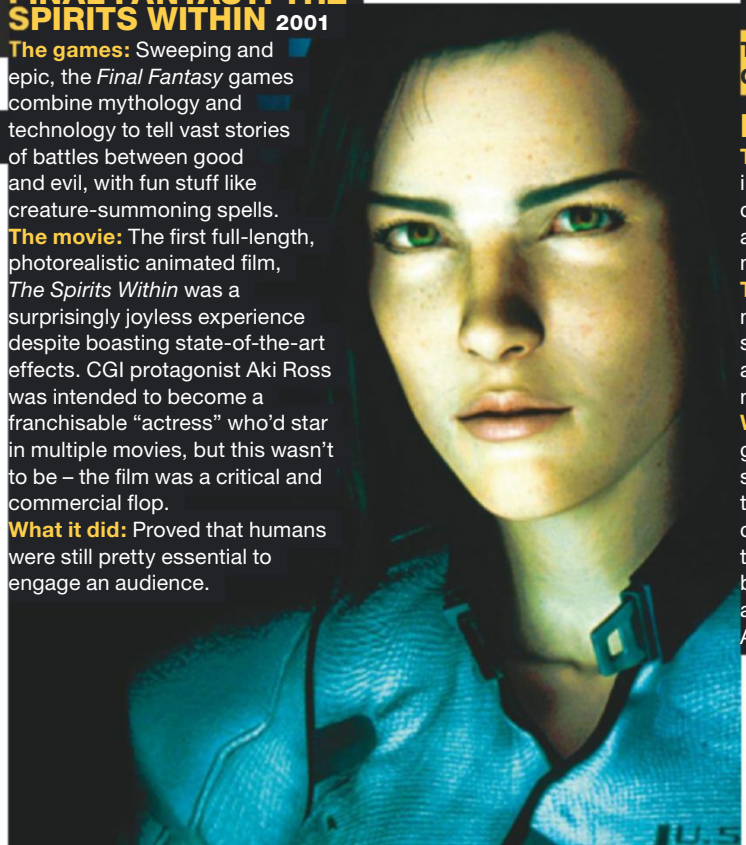
DOOM 2005

The games: The original *Doom* (1993) pioneered the first-person shooter genre, showing a world of demons, hellspawn and gore through the eyes of its protagonist.
The movie: Remembered mostly for starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, even if he'd rather forget.
What it did: There were two moments in *Doom* that resonated with fans. One was when Johnson declared "Big... F**king... Gun!" using a fan's nickname for the game's "BFG" weapon. The other was a first-person sequence that replicated the look of the game. People spend *hours* inside games' worlds, so homages and in-jokes are always going to go down well.

THE ONE WITH THE CREEPY CGI STAR

FINAL FANTASY: THE SPIRITS WITHIN 2001

The games: Sweeping and epic, the *Final Fantasy* games combine mythology and technology to tell vast stories of battles between good and evil, with fun stuff like creature-summoning spells.
The movie: The first full-length, photorealistic animated film, *The Spirits Within* was a surprisingly joyless experience despite boasting state-of-the-art effects. CGI protagonist Aki Ross was intended to become a franchisable "actress" who'd star in multiple movies, but this wasn't to be – the film was a critical and commercial flop.
What it did: Proved that humans were still pretty essential to engage an audience.



THE ONE WITH MILLIONS OF SEQUELS

RESIDENT EVIL 2002

The games: Known as *Biohazard* in Japan, the *Resident Evil* series deals with the zombie-fuelled aftermath of experiments by the mysterious Umbrella Corporation.
The movies: The games were used more as a jumping off point for the series, with Milla Jovovich as an ass-kicking, gun-toting amnesiac named Alice.
What it did: The only successful game-to-movie franchise, the series has made a fortune and the sixth *Resident Evil* film is coming out next year. The key to this might be the relationship between the star (Jovovich) and producer (Paul W.S. Anderson) – they're married.

Going to Glastonbury? Don't lose your vote in the EU referendum

Because deciding the UK's future is just as important as watching Adele

WORDS: TOM SMITH. PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

ON JUNE 23, THE UK VOTES on whether or not to remain in the EU. That's the Thursday of the Glastonbury Festival, by which point the vast majority of festival-goers will be on site and high-tailing it across a field because someone said there's a secret Craig David set happening. Glastonbury organisers have already confirmed that there won't be a polling booth on site, but don't worry – you can still party on the farm and get your vote in the EU referendum. Here's how.

1 MAKE SURE YOU'RE REGISTERED TO VOTE
The deadline is June 7. Check you're on the list at aboutmyvote.co.uk.

2 APPLY FOR A POSTAL VOTE
Use the website to register for a postal vote by 5pm on June 8 (June 3 in Northern Ireland). You need to return your form by 10pm on polling day, so send it before you leave for Glastonbury.

3 MISSED THE POSTAL VOTE DEADLINE? GET A FRIEND TO DO IT INSTEAD
You have until 5pm on June 15 to arrange for someone to vote on your behalf. They must be registered to vote themselves and they can't be registered for more than two proxies.

Last W33K IN NUMBERS

60
Minutes between Gucci Mane being released from prison and entering the studio.

16
Years since Robbie Williams and Kylie last duetted. They're reportedly working on a new song.

NME PROMOTION

Want to be one of Budweiser's guests at an epic dance festival in Belgium?

Tiesto, David Guetta and Deadmau5 are all playing Tomorrowland in Boom, from July 22-24. There are two prizes to win, courtesy of Budweiser

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TOMORROWLAND ESSENTIAL INFO
When: July 22-24
Where: Boom, Belgium
The line-up: David Guetta, Tiësto, Deadmau5, Steve Aoki, Laidback Luke, Eric Prydz, Fedde Le Grand

TO ENTER, GO TO BUDWEISER.CO.UK/OFFTHERECORD
Competition ends on June 24. Winners will be drawn on June 27. Must be 18+ to enter. Full Ts and Cs are on the Budweiser website.

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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Beck in business

Beck is back with the brilliant wild funk single 'Wow'. *NME* caught up with the maverick American singer-songwriter to find out more.

What inspired 'Wow'?
I was working on a different song – maybe [2015 hit] 'Dreams' – when I had an idea for a flute beat. I picked up the mic and 'Wow' came out totally spontaneously. I forgot all about it until it was on in the studio one day and someone said, "You should put that on the record." I went, "I don't think anybody would like this." When the record company said they were putting it out as a single, I was like, "Really? 'Wow'? Huh… OK then."

What's the album like?
It's what exists in the range between 'Dreams' and 'Wow'. I've worked on it with [producer and former bandmate] Greg Kurstin for three and a half years. I was constantly touring while making it, so I was attempting to bring some of that energy into the studio, which isn't always easy. If I get three songs on a record that work live, I'm happy. This time I'm trying to make them all work live.

When will it be out?
Probably in the fall. It's essentially done. I don't have a final title yet.

'Wow' has a hip-hop feel. Which rappers are making you go "wow"?
That world has so much happening. Los Angeles is having a renaissance with people like Kendrick Lamar. I like the new Chance The Rapper record a lot. Four or five months ago we tried to get Chance on 'Wow'. I'm not sure what happened with that.

'Dreams' and 'Wow' are euphoric. Are you in a happy place personally?
Yeah. I had a spine injury and there was a long period where it wasn't easy to make music. Recovering has made a huge difference.

Hear 'Wow' on NME.com now

Beck at a glance

FULL NAME: Beck Hanson (Born Bek David Campbell)

5 BEST ALBUMS: Mellow Gold (1994), Odelay (1996), Midnite Vultures (1999), Sea Change (2002), Morning Phase (2014)

GRAMMYS CONTROVERSY: After Beck won Best Album for Morning Phase, Kanye interrupted his acceptance speech in protest at Beyoncé not winning. He later apologised, saying: "I was inaccurate with the concept of a gentleman who plays 14 instruments not respecting artistry."

BECK'S RECORD CLUB: In 2009 Beck ran a project where he recorded covers of entire albums in a single day, including LPs by Leonard Cohen, INXS and Velvet Underground

FAMILY FACTS: Beck's wife is Marissa Ribisi, who played Cynthia in Dazed & Confused. His mum, Bibbe Hansen, was involved with Andy Warhol's Factory. His dad, David Campbell, is an arranger and composer who's worked with the likes of Michael Jackson

"There's a hip-hop renaissance with Kendrick Lamar and Chance The Rapper"

GOOD WEEK

EQUALITY
Finding Dory appears to feature a lesbian couple in its latest trailer – the first Pixar film to do so.

STEVE DAVIS
The snooker legend has been booked for a techno DJ set at Glastonbury.

VICTORIA BECKHAM
The former Spice Girl's ill-advised 2003 hip-hop album leaked online. Listen at your peril.

ALEX TURNER
Fans said his cardigan and slacks on *Later With… Jools Holland* made him look like Alan Partridge.

BAD WEEK

WORDS: JOHN EARLS. PHOTOS: DISNEY, GETTY, REX

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Strokes FM

It was a busy week for indie kings The Strokes. They announced a new EP and singer Julian Casablancas launched his own radio show, *Culture Void,* on Sirius XM. Did Julian cut it as a DJ? Here's what we learned

HE'S DEFINITELY GOT A VOICE FOR RADIO

On his Beats 1 show *Alligator Hour*, Queens Of The Stone Age frontman Josh Homme speaks in a deliberately languid drawl. Julian did the same, but amped up to 11, sounding like Bill Nighy playing Iggy Pop. Was it a p*ss-take? Probably.

BUT YOU COULD HARDLY CALL HIM PROFESSIONAL

Other radio hosts might give you information about the tracks they've just played for you. Not Julian. Also, he was late to his own show. *Culture Void*'s first episode got underway with a cough and a splutter at 3.10pm. It was supposed to start at 3pm.

THE PLAYLIST WAS RATHER ECLECTIC

The first three songs were Bob Marley, Belgian singer Jo Lemaire and experimental hip-hop duo Shabazz Palaces. "It's simply what I wish radio would sound like," said Julian. Right on.

AND THE NEW STROKES TUNE FITTED RIGHT IN

JC sandwiched the new Strokes song between Chopin and Fela Kuti. Because what's better than a "sweet little nocturne" to warm up for the unveiling of 'Oblivius'?

BECAUSE – OR MAYBE IN SPITE – OF THE ABOVE, IT WAS BRILLIANT

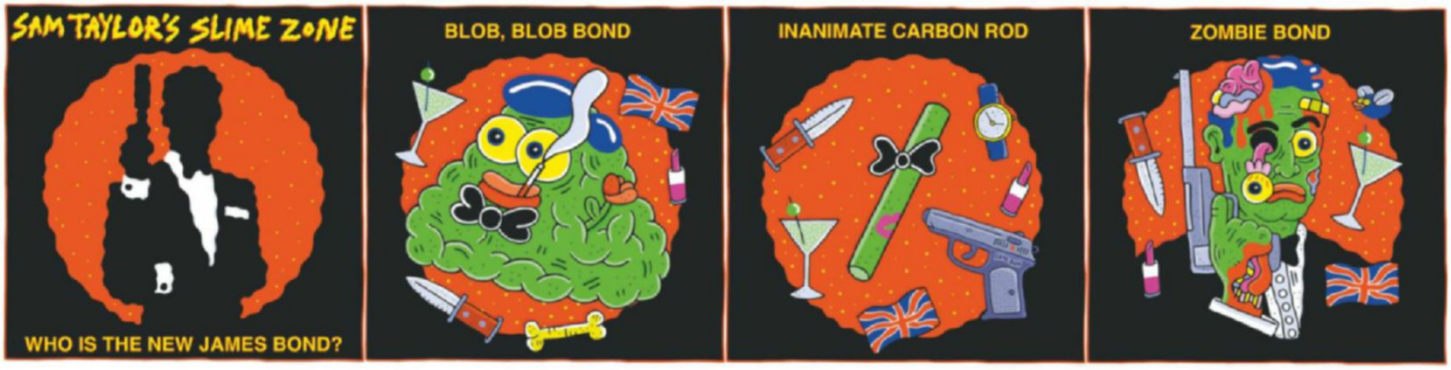
(But he probably won't be getting the Radio 1 Breakfast Show gig.)

Read the four-star NME review of the new Strokes EP at NME.COM

The full *Culture Void* track list

Bob Marley 'Bad Card'
Jo Lemaire 'Je Suis Venue Te Dire Que Je M'en Vais'
Shabazz Palaces 'Blastit'
The Misfits 'Cough/Cool'
Chopin 'Nocturne op. 9 No 2'
The Strokes 'Oblivius'
Fela Kuti unknown
No Age 'Fever Dreaming'
Unhappybirthday 'Himitsu'
C.R.E.A.M. 'Dusty Beats'
The Hollywood Prime Time Orchestra 'Knight Rider'
Metronomy 'The Look'
Crystal Castles 'Magic Spells'
The Outcasts 'Loving You Sometimes'
Supertramp 'Goodbye Stranger'

WORDS: RHIAN DALY. PHOTOS: DDP USA/REX/SHUTTER-



THINGS WE LIKE

WE ♥ NY *VINYL* SPECIAL

THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE

Buttoned up
A paisley shirt is the ultimate in indulgent vintage flamboyance.
£65 *prettygreen.com*

Spinning around
A retro-styled turntable to play all those lovely records on.
£160 *urbanoutfitters.com*

Listening party
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£9.99 *amazon.co.uk*

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£7.50 *topman.com*

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Gold stacked heels will take you from Studio 54 dancefloor to the mosh pit at CBGB's.
£109.99 *misslfire.co.uk*

Blonde ambition
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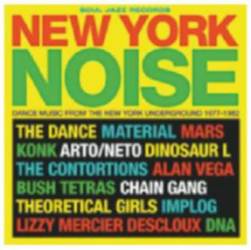
£20.99 *hmv.com*



Underground sounds
A must-have compilation of cult '70s NYC bangers.
£14.99
soundsoftheuniverse.com

Essential reading
Love Goes To Buildings On Fire tells all about the Manhattan music scene.
£13.48 *amazon.co.uk*

Shady deal
Classic aviator sunglasses instantly turn anyone into a swaggering rock star.
£135 *ray-ban.com*

Dress up
A short sequined frock for channelling your inner Debbie Harry.
£28 *motelrocks.com*

Leather love
A white leather jacket mixes punk grit with effortlessly glam disco chic.
£185 *topshop.com*

Ring me
A gold-plated signet ring, for those high-powered record executive moments.
£6 *asos.com*

Sole survivor
The always cool Adidas Gazelle has been a style staple for the past 40 years.
£70 *adidas.co.uk*

Looking good
Season one of *Vinyl* brings the sex, drugs and rock'n'roll of '70s NYC to vivid life.
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ERYKAH BADU
Didn't Cha Know
"I love her. Her sound's neo-soul. It's really cool."

Wearing: H&M jeans, top from a charity shop, Adidas trainers, vintage sunglasses.
Best thing about Winchester: "There are great farmers and craft markets every Sunday."

ALEKSANDER JANKZUK ›

18, student

Listening to:
MICHAEL CALFAN
Prelude
"He's got great tunes."

Wearing: Vintage jacket, Reserved sweatshirt, Levi's jeans.
Best thing about Winchester: "It's kinda small, so everyone knows each other."

‹ ALEX OUTRIDGE

20, waiter

Listening to:
AC/DC
Back In Black
"A bit of a rock-out. Perfect for a Sunday morning walk to work."

Wearing: River Island jumper, Primark T-shirt, Burton jeans.
Best thing about Winchester: "It's nice that you can go out for drinks and it not be mental. You can always walk home – it's that kind of place."

PHOTOS: MATT RICHARDSON

JOHANNA FARQUHAR ›

23, recruitment consultant

Listening to:
BROODS
Free
"They're a great new band from where I'm from – New Zealand."

Wearing: Top from Brick Lane market, H&M trousers and boots.
Best thing about Winchester: "I love the history. And it's so much quieter than other cities."

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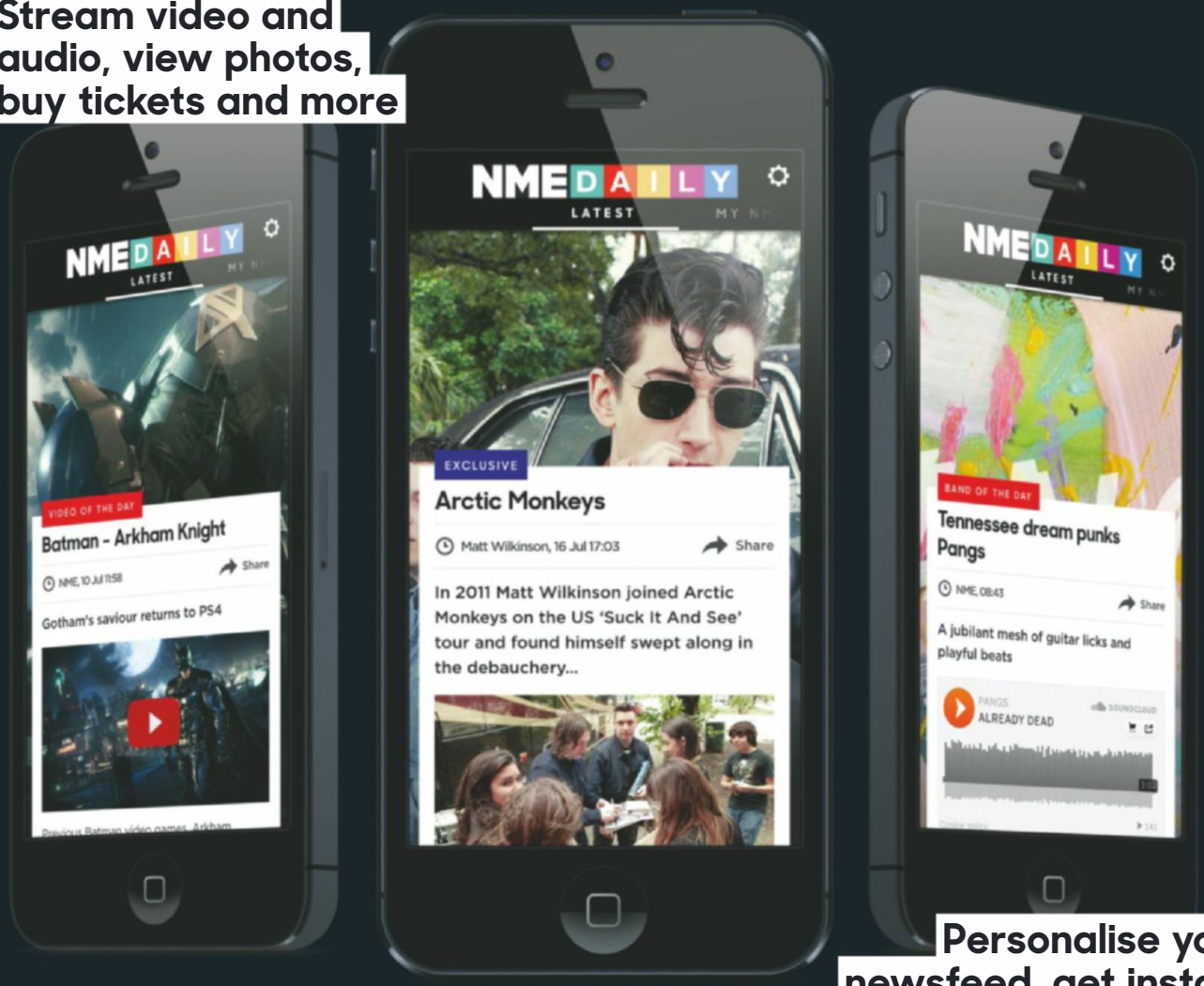

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ALL THINGS NME, WHEREVER AND WHENEVER YOU WANT IT

Pete bares his soul

Since leaving London in 2009 to help kick his drug habit, Pete Doherty has led a nomadic existence. Matt Wilkinson joins him in a chaotic Hackney hotel room to talk about life, The Libertines and his rallying cry against terrorism

(and his other bits)

PHOTOGRAPHY: ROGER SARGENT

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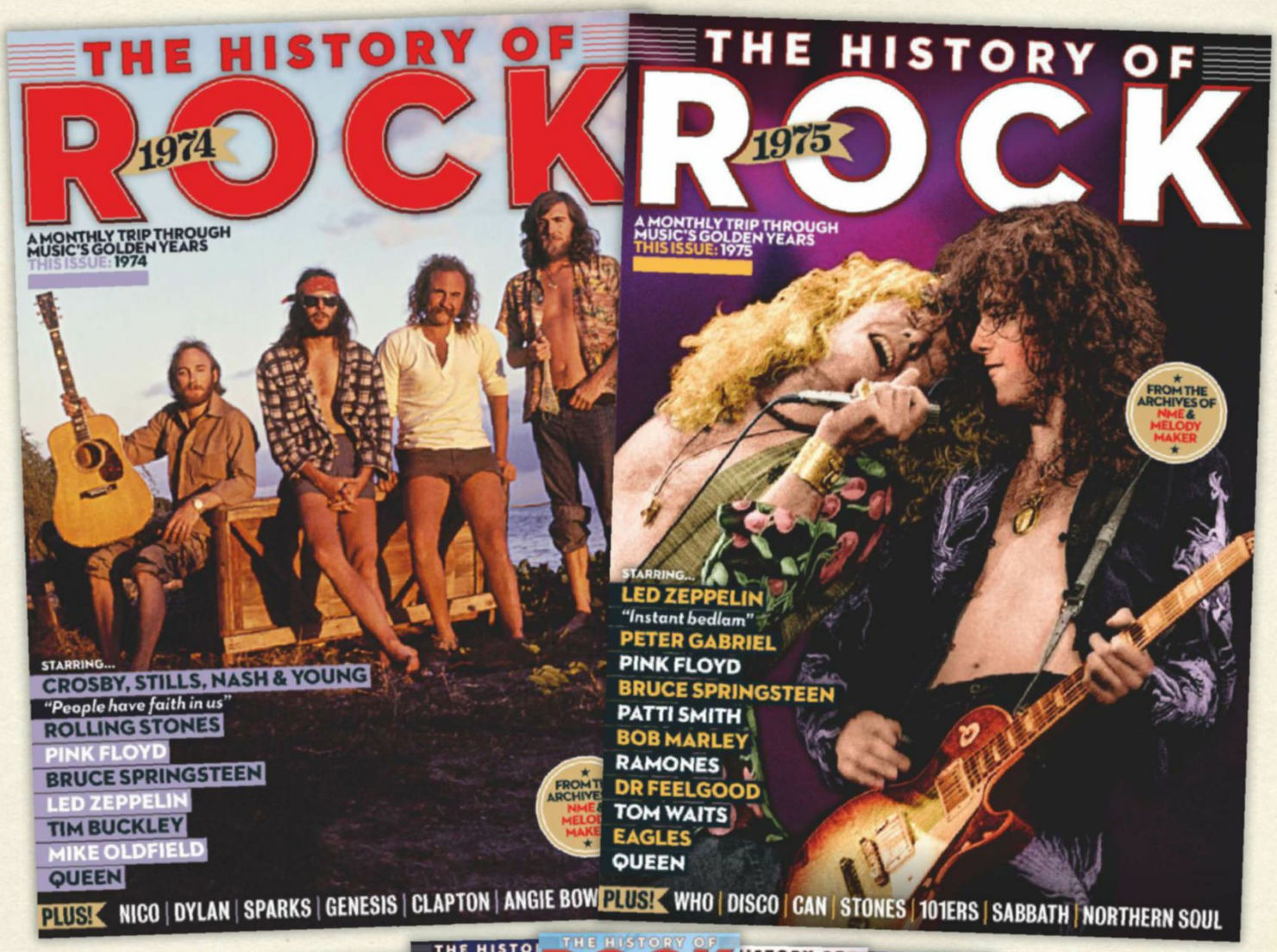

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"OI! MATE! Try not to stand on that, will ya? I know it might not look like much, but a lot of it's important. Just take your boots off!"

IT'S 3AM and I'm edging my way around Pete Doherty's east London hotel room, trying to find bits of carpet underneath the heaving mass of stray guitars, strewn clothes, shoes (no laces), toolboxes, paintboxes, beer bottles, water bottles, lighters, typewriters, ripped-up letters, blood-splattered artworks-in-progress, passports, laptops and other assorted paraphernalia that obliterates every centimetre of the room. It's impossible, so I give up and take refuge on the edge of the bed.

Opposite me, Doherty is leaning on an ironing board that has a pressed shirt draped valiantly off it – a singular piece of perfection among an Aladdin's cave of disjointed personal artefacts. He's just played a solo gig at London's Hackney Empire, larking about in front of the cameras beforehand for *NME* photographer (and long-time Libertines cohort) Roger Sargent. At one point during our shoot, without direction, he suddenly beckons Sargent into the backstage toilets, turns on the showers and strips butt-naked, hat aside. Sargent snaps away while Doherty, much like a naughty, drunk schoolboy, cackles maniacally. The entire room, watching open-mouthed, suddenly erupts with him.

But right now, with his post-show adrenalin rush fast subsiding, he's knackered. He only checked into the hotel two days ago, but this has been his way of living for many years now. Something of a nomad since leaving London in 2009 in a bid to kick drugs, technically Doherty splits his time between Paris and the UK. But he's set up shop anywhere and everywhere over the past few years, thanks to his and girlfriend Katia's beaten-up '80s camper van, which they drive everywhere. This includes the middle of Hyde Park: when The Libertines played there to 65,000 people two years ago, Doherty shunned the offer of a tour bus, instead making the journey himself from France via Glasgow, where the band had played a warm-up gig. When he arrived, he simply tooted his horn, drove in, parked up next to the stage and played the biggest gig of his life. Then he drove all the way home again.

"I think I've probably slept 27 of the last 30 nights..."

"I could be anywhere," he says when I ask why he doesn't settle. "I just need my space to work. When I'm here [in the hotel] I live like I do at home, really. I just need somewhere I can live affordably."

DOHERTY WAS in the French capital during the terrorist attacks last November, and was the first artist announced to play the soon-to-reopen Bataclan theatre, where 89 died, a year on from the tragedy. Given his ties to the city, that must have been a no-brainer when the offer came in? "Well, yeah. I went down there [after the attacks] and just sat outside with my guitar. Just to be there. Katia lost about five people she was at school with."

He wonders if the French government should have paid for the attackers' funerals (he can't decide), and berates the fact that it was young people who committed the atrocities.

"They're declaring war on their idea they've got of the decadent West, and Satan. They just believe that Satan controls our politicians, our production and the decisions that are made by people in power. And they're willing to die for it. They believe they're the victims.

"Anyway," he says, "Let me play you this… It came out of nowhere, *bang*."

Onto the stereo comes a jaunty, Pogues-esque demo of a track called 'Hell To Pay At The Gates Of Heaven'. It's so simple and immediate that I recognise it straight away from the gig Doherty played with his new solo band a few hours previously, where it had cut through instantly. Although he debuted eight unreleased tracks in total at the Hackney Empire show (all are vying for inclusion on his forthcoming second solo album), there was something bigger about this song, a three-chord, whiskey-drenched waltz complete with impassioned vocals and a brilliant line about John Lennon's favourite acoustic guitar, the iconic Gibson J-45.

"It's about the f**king Bataclan," Doherty says of the track. "About how we're under attack. At that age, when you're desperate to fight for something it can catch you off balance. When you've got the faith and belief, you'll put as much into it as a lad who's obsessed with guitars. So the lyric is, '*Come on boys, choose your weapons / J-45 or an AK-47?*' Both take dedication and belief. To fight, or to make music."

If he nails the recording properly, 'Hell To Pay At The Gates Of Heaven' has the potential to rival Doherty's greatest songs. Tracks like 'Time For Heroes' (written about the May Day riots in London in 2000) and 'Albion' (which he wrote as a teenager obsessed with William Blake, Oscar Wilde and the idea of total, unabridged escapism from all mainstream realities) stand the test of time not just because they're indie classics, but because they say something meaningful.

But with over a decade of tabloid headlines about him, it's easy to forget just how adept and vibrant a songwriter the 37-year-old is. While his battle with addictions has been well-documented, he says he now has regular bursts where he's able to manage them. "I think I've probably slept 27 of the last 30 nights" is his way of telling me he thinks he's doing OK. His relationship with

What's next for The Libs?

The reunion isn't over yet...

Unofficially, The Libertines are on ice for the next 12 months, while Doherty, Carl Barât and bassist John Hassall all focus on solo projects. There are, however, a few gigs on the cards. "I'm always the last to know, of course, but apparently we're playing some gigs in Chile, Argentina and Brazil," Doherty says. "I've got a feeling I'm gonna love it over there." Fans should keep an eye on their solo shows too – at Doherty's second Hackney Empire gig in May, all four Libs ended up jamming onstage.

his parents, meanwhile – his father refused to talk to him at the peak of his addictions a decade ago – has improved tenfold. "Yeah, it's f**king great. It makes me wanna try harder. He's reaching out to me."

THROUGHOUT IT all, Doherty is always writing music. He shows me his iTunes collection on a battered and blood-splattered laptop, and there are hundreds of unreleased recordings. He's currently itching to release a few of them as his second solo album, the follow-up to 2009's 'Grace/Wastelands'. Whereas that record was a treasure trove of songs that tapped into the collective consciousness of everyone from Gorillaz to Bert Jansch, the new batch are far more simplistic. There's 'Kolley Kibber', named after the Brighton Rock character and with dreamy, Lee Hazlewood-style backing vocals. There's 'Birdcage', which is like a long-lost St Etienne track living inside a garage-rock shell. And there's 'She Is Far', a beautiful, pastoral folk song that was originally written by a teenage Doherty alongside 'Albion' back when he was still learning the guitar. It sounds like something Neil Young might have come up with had he moved to London rather than California in the mid-'60s, and was partially inspired by Simon & Garfunkel's 'The Boxer'. "Some people have this inverted working-class snobbery where if you like Simon & Garfunkel you have to be put up against a wall and hurt. But that's a great song," Doherty says proudly.

Recorded at Hamburg's Clouds Hill Recordings with producer Johann Scheerer over the past couple of years, the tracks are currently the subject of a record company bidding war – so it's still unclear when they'll be released. But Doherty, having grown tired of waiting, has already taken matters into his own hands and formed a new solo band to play the songs live.

"It was only 10 days before the first gig of this tour [he played a handful of UK shows in May] that I decided I wasn't just gonna do it acoustic. I went for a little relaxation in the camper van with Katia. We were gonna go and see my sister in Madrid, but we stopped off in Barcelona and I met Rafa, who I haven't seen in years. He's a drummer – he's always been looking for a break. He was in a Tarantino covers band! And we had a jam and then we thought, 'F**k it, let's do it.' So Drew [McConnell, Babyshambles bassist] flew over, and then Stefany [Kaberian] came in with the accordion, and Miki [Beavis] turned up with a violin."

THE FIVE-PIECE are joined on some songs by Katia on keys, and although they're a mishmash of different styles, there's a freshness in the way they gel together. While some people might think it wildly uncool for a guy so closely aligned with garage rock to flirt with something that, on paper, seems closer to Mumford & Sons than The Clash, Doherty has always been a devotee of folk songs (today he's on a country tip, waxing lyrical about Gram Parsons and Blaze Foley). It's a far cry from The Libertines' huge festival fees and travelling crew of 40 roadies.

"People are so far away," he says of gigging with The Libs, adding that on their last arena tour six months ago he struggled with the lack of interaction between the band and audience resulting from that distance.

"I don't enjoy it," he says matter-of-factly, "but I have to do it because it's in my blood, it's in my soul, it's who I am. But I would never use the word 'fun' [to describe it]."

I'm surprised by his honestly, and press him on it. He can enjoy playing those huge Libertines shows, he eventually admits, but he has to dig deep. "This is something I have to learn – this is a fault of my own. It's not an idealistic thing where I think, 'You should not have fun, you should be serious.' Not at all. I'd *love* to go out there and have fun and enjoy it, but I just can't. It's not in my make-up. I find it very difficult."

The new solo band, Doherty says, will provide something of an antidote to all that. "These new songs, this new line-up – I'm part of it, you know? It's a small group. There's more people in the band than there are in the whole crew plus management."

I ask him if he ever finds it difficult to write, and like everybody else I've posed the question to – from Paul McCartney to Alex Turner – he says no. He just picks up a guitar, finds a melody and presses record. Where Doherty differs from the others, though, is that he'd be fine if it was all to stop tomorrow.

"I wish that would happen, because I could just crack onto something else. But it just keeps coming. I think I've got a lot of wasted… I've got a lot of things invested in my songwriting and it drains me. Too many things get in the way of the essence."

The essence, he continues, is finding that one-in-a-million tune. When it happens, everything pays off. "At the moment, I'm really inside these new songs. I believe in them. And I know if people are into my other tunes it's just a matter of time. Sometimes people just need two or three listens. Or sometimes I'll get to the second chorus and that's it – they know the song and they love it." With that, he picks up a guitar and sings. "*Come on boys, choose your weapons…*"

NME

Country Boy

Doherty's obsessed with country music at the moment and it's seeped into his own new tracks. Here are two of his favourite artists from the genre.

GRAM PARSONS
Keith Richards' great mate in the late '60s was one of country's biggest rebels.

"I love this guy. Stuff like this album ['Another Side Of This Life'] – there's no one to touch him. This is what I wanna be doing. This is what I'm aiming for."

BLAZE FOLEY
A cult icon from Austin, Texas, Foley's success came posthumously, following his murder aged 39 in 1989.

"Ultimately, I do like Gram Parsons, but one song in 10 is great. Whereas your man Blaze Foley, he cannot be faulted. You can't play a Blaze Foley song that will not break your heart."

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, MARSHA WELDON

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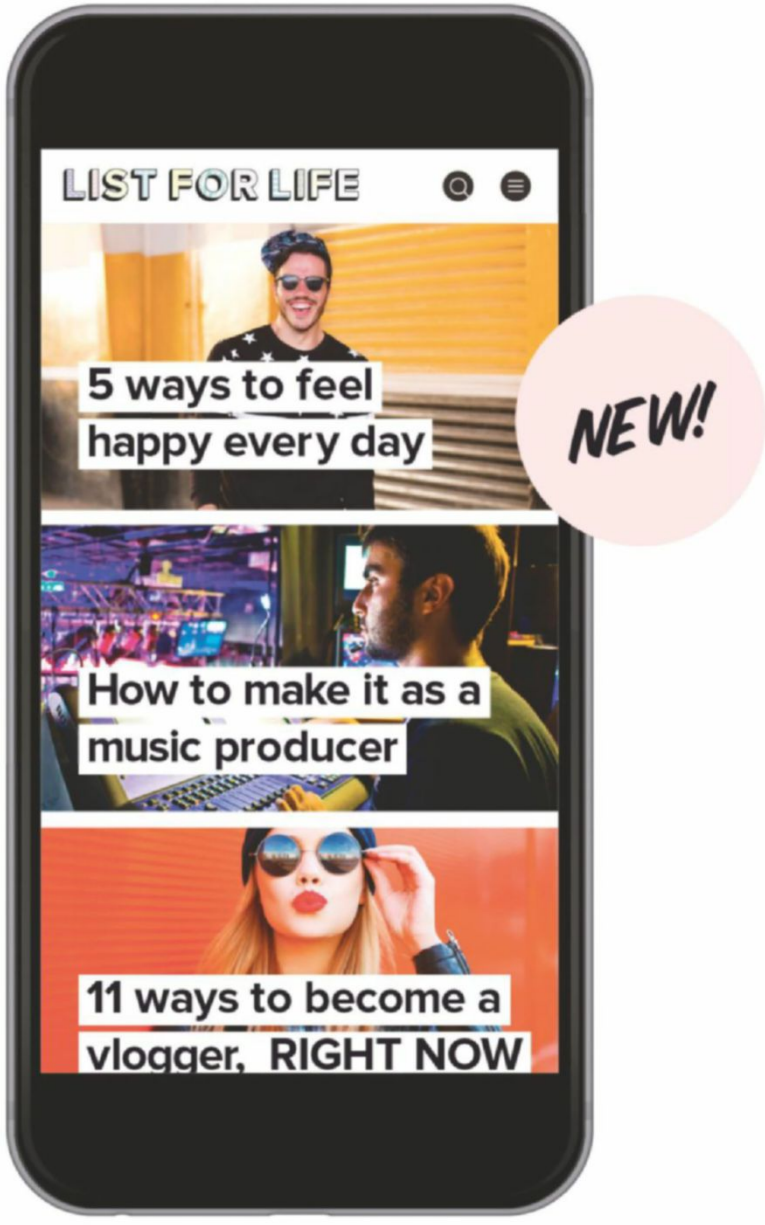

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♥ WHAT YOU DO

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Manchester garage-rockers Spring King aren't your average indie hopefuls. They don't drink, they don't cheat and they don't fight. They do play till they puke, though, as Jonny Ensall finds out

PHOTOS: BEN BENTLEY, LAURA HARVEY

"I'm short and skinny and only have one vein, so I get p**sed after a single pint"

When Spring King play live, they play hard. So hard that sometimes frontman Tarek Musa loses his dinner to the floor. "At the 100 Club I chucked up between songs," he recalls over a burrito in Liverpool. "And then at [London venue] Heaven. Backstage, this guy was like, 'Yo, great set!' and I threw up on his shoes." Tarek is Spring King's singer and drummer, and a "burrito encore" ("it's always after a burrito") is what happens when he attempts both with the same furious energy during one of the band's sweat-drenched, 100-mile-an-hour live shows.

If on record Spring King's songs sound like they were thrashed out in a smashed-up bathroom, it's because many of them were. Spring King began when Tarek challenged himself to write and record a song a day in the unused privy of his family home outside Manchester. "I think I racked up about 70 of them," he says. "If I hadn't finished it that day, I deleted the track." The band's debut album 'Tell Me If You Like To', out June 10, is a brilliant edit of his bloodthirsty appetite for songwriting. Standout tracks 'City', 'Who Are You?' and 'Rectifier' are power-punch garage-pop, and so easy to sing along with they make The Stone Roses' 'All For One' sound like a Radiohead B-side.

Tonight, Liverpool is the city doing the singing – but not just because Tarek and the rest of the band (Pete Darlington on lead guitar, Andy Morton on rhythm and James Green on bass) are in town. Spring King's date at the Arts Club falls on the same evening Liverpool FC play in the Europa League final and the atmosphere in the city could be described as "pissed". So it's Spring King vs the football – although Tarek's battle will likely be more akin to *Man V. Food*.

IT'S TEMPTING, seeing how they play, to think of Spring King as a bunch of indie hopefuls who'll fall apart in a spectacular frenzy of drink, drugs and ill-advised tweets – but that's not likely, reckons Pete. "To turn up hungover to a gig is kind of disrespectful," he says. "Also, I'm short and skinny and only have one vein, so I get pissed after a single pint."

If they have allegiance to any city it's not Manchester but Liverpool, where Tarek studied music and where their friends, in bands such as Stealing Sheep and All We Are, hang out. "We'd never fit in with that Manchester scene," says James, the excitable one. "Our look is too nerdy." Style-wise they tread the fine line between grungy insouciance and plain old laziness. Tarek tried to up the fashion ante by wearing a shirt for their recent appearance on *Later… With Jools Holland*, but it backfired. "Elton John was there," he says with a grimace. "He looked me up and down and said, 'At least *some* of us made an effort!'"

Really, Spring King are just four nice, geeky twentysomethings. They don't drink on tour and they don't fall out – which is handy, because they've spent hours cramped together in Tarek's mum's Honda saloon. Early tours in support of Courtney Barnett and Slaves made them "deathly ill" says Andy, as they struggled to hold down day jobs too. While James worked at an insurance company and Pete at a bakery, Andy had a job cleaning out cages at an owl sanctuary – at least for a while. "I accidentally bashed an owl on the head with a broom and killed it," he says. "I thought nobody would notice, but a few days later I was called into the office. They were like, 'We've just found a dead barn owl with its legs sticking out of a bin bag…'"

CLASS OF 2016

Three more new bands to get into this summer

BLOSSOMS

Who: Stockport five-piece whose debut album is produced by The Coral frontman James Skelly.
Why: They marry psychedelic pop with gigantic, arms-aloft anthems.
Best tune: 'Charlemagne'

YAK

Who: London trio with a crunching garage sound that's equal in bark and bite.
Why: The ferocity of their live shows, which bagged them a supporting slot with The Last Shadow Puppets this year.
Best tune: 'Smile'

DREAM WIFE

Who: Hard-hitting electro-rock trio with members from London, Brighton and Reykjavik.
Why: Rabble-rousing shows that have been known to feature foul-mouthed Spice Girls covers.
Best tune: 'Believe'

It was in June 2015 when things took a sharp turn for the better. Entirely out of the blue, Zane Lowe played 'City' as the first song on Apple's Beats 1 radio station. The phones started ringing, and within months Spring King had signed with Island Records. "It's a crazy story," admits Pete.

Listen through once, and 'Tell Me If You Like To' sounds cheap, dirty and easy – in the best possible way. With Tarek producing, there's just as much scuzz as those bathroom sessions. "I was always limited in the house, and I like that challenge," he grins. Listen again, however, and you might detect a hint of loneliness and desperation behind the poppy front. "*Tonight I just wanna be somebody else, somebody new,*" Tarek wails on 'Who Are You?'. It's a bit like The Beach Boys, I suggest – sad songs that sound happy. "I'll take that," says Tarek. "I love Brian Wilson… I spent years alone, with my parents coming in and out of my life," he goes on. "My dad's always lived abroad. My mum followed him, trying to keep a steady relationship going. I was spending months on my own, with just Pete or Andy coming over. That's why I connected with Brian Wilson, in a way, because he had a bit of a weird upbringing as well. But I don't compare myself to him. The guy's a genius."

Three quarters of an hour before stage time at the Arts Club, Liverpool FC lose to Sevilla and the city stops drinking to celebrate and starts drinking to forget. Inside the venue, Spring King have their own processes to be getting on with – Andy and James do stretches. Pete eats a Pret sandwich he's been saving. Tarek concentrates on not vomiting. The preparations are sober, considering the audience are definitely not.

Eventually, with the small room humming with anticipation, Spring King take the stage. Tarek launches into 'Let's Ride' – the first ever Spring King song – his quiet persona deposited in the dressing room for the gig. Immediately a mosh pit appears. There's sweat – so much sweat – dripping off the walls and ceiling. A crowd surfer rises briefly, before crashing back into the melee. It's chaos, and it couldn't be more exciting. And Tarek keeps the burrito down. It takes guts to be a rock'n'roll star. And he's got them.

NME

RED HOT ...OR NOT?

Nick Cave famously said, "I'm forever near a stereo saying, 'What the fk is this garbage?' And the answer is always the Red Hot Chili Peppers." With their 11th studio album out this month, two *NME* writers make the case for them being the best, or worst, band on the planet**

(L-r:) Flea, former members Cliff Martinez and Hillel Slovak, plus Anthony Kiedis in 1982

5 REASONS TO LOVE RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS

By **Mark Beaumont**

1 THEY'RE MADE ENTIRELY OF SEX

Well, at least 96.4 per cent. They live in Californication. They're in constant infringement of public decency laws requiring them to wear at least one sports sock each at all times. And, in song, they make Russell Brand look like McLovin – there's so much giving it to your mama and 'zephyr' innuendo going on, you'd think they stole all their lyrics from texts sent in to Babestation. Like Gene Simmons minus the make-up, they're shameless shaggers and that makes their live shows a feral, fundamentally seamy experience that all funky horndogs – which, let's face it, is you and all your friends – can relate to. Don't take a potential partner along before date five, though, they'll run a mile.

2 THEY'RE MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Beyond their Olympic-level bedroom undertakings, RHCP are a social and political force for good. 'Californication', for instance, was more about Hollywood spreading false fantasies of perfection than David Duchovny Netflix-and-chilling his way through most of LA, and such issue-raising bleeds into their activist leanings. They've headlined fundraisers for Barack Obama and Bernie Sanders, spoken out against US gun laws and Native American issues and played charity shows for cancer causes and victims of Hurricane Katrina. Yes, it's like your Tinder hook-up rushing you out of their flat to vote, but we salute them.

3 THEY STILL KNOCK OUT HITS

Like Oasis, every Chili Peppers album comes with at least one certified mega-banger attached. 'By The Way', 'Dani California', 'The Zephyr Song'; even through their 'difficult' third decade the quality of their singles has dipped as little as their sex drives. Even 'Dark Necessities', the Chic-like first single from new album 'The Getaway', has the scent of a RHCP classic, its disco-noir groove giving way to a middle eight so Beatledelic you suspect they intended it to be their 'A Day In The Life'. Or rather 'A Day In Your Wife'.

4 THEY'RE TESTING THEIR BOUNDARIES

Anyone that's sat through one of RHCP's month-long festival jam sets dreaming of a swift and merciful death might think the band are stuck in a funk-rock rut. Not so – with 'The Getaway' they've worked with Danger Mouse to help them out of eight months of limbo in the wake of Flea breaking his arm in a snowboarding accident. "The only way that we saw this working," says singer Anthony Keidis, "was to have trust in him and get rid of our old ideas and our old way of doing things and say, 'If this is going to work, we just have to throw ourselves off the cliff and see what happens.'" Bungee funk, anyone?

5 THEY KNOW HOW YOU FEEL

Lost a loved one? Half of 'One Hot Minute' was tributes to the likes of Kurt Cobain and River Phoenix. Self-harming due to drug or alcohol problems? That was the other half. Whether in love, rehab, the depths of depression or the heights of coital ecstasy, RHCP have been there and documented it. They're basically your entire life in quick-fire rhyming couplets, with its wang out. Go listen.

5 REASONS TO HATE RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS

By **Joe Madden**

1 THEY MAKE BAD SONGS THAT SOUND BAD

Red Hot Chili Peppers are the worst advert ever for musical cross-pollination. They offer rock that does not rock; funk that is not funky; hip-hop with no flow; psychedelia stripped of trippiness. It's a perfect sh*t-storm of plodding riffs, flightless melodies and spiritual-as-a-dolphin-meme lyrics. It's telling that, despite being one of the world's most successful groups for more than quarter of a century, RHCP have proven amazingly uninfluential. Pretty much the only direct RHCP progeny ever were Hoobastank. Remember Hoobastank? 'Course you don't. Not even Hoobastank remember Hoobastank, and they *were* Hoobastank.

2 THEY REEK OF GROIN

Thrusting groins; sweaty toplessness; "*I put my middle finger in / Your monthly blood is what I win.*" The Chili Peppers are like 14-year-old boys in a boob shop – leering, phwoaring, pungent with a clumsy, macho horniness that's nauseating to behold. "Whatta gat ah gatta give it tuya muthaah!" bawls singer Anthony Kiedis, lunging his 50-something knackers at the audience like some cruel parody of a menopausal surf-jock. He's engorged on Viagra, dizzy on Relentless, gate-crashing a sorority party. Ew. Dude. Put it away.

3 THE NEVER-ENDING NOODLING

Ever seen Red Hot Chili Peppers live? Holy sh*t. They make Muse look like masters of pithy brevity. You know that 32-year-old guy who works in your local music shop? Looks like he's probably called Richard? The guy with the ponytail, *Game Of Thrones* T-shirt and a vast bunch of keys on his belt? The guy who's forever demonstrating his fretboard wizardry to what he imagines are wowed customers – his eyes closed, lost in soulful concentration, blissfully unaware of all the awks cringe he's generating? Well, imagine there's four of him, and they're onstage at Wembley, and they've been told to faff, noodle and tit about as if their lives depended on it. That is exactly what watching the Chili Peppers live is like.

4 THEY'RE THE SOUND OF GIVING UP

For all their rad tattoos, rehab tales and surf-bro dancing, the Chili Peppers are as middle-of-the-road and crushingly suburban as it gets. They're the band you listen to when you can't be arsed keeping up with music any more; when the joy of discovering the new, the mad and the challenging has long since faded and all you want is comforting aural soup with no unpredictable bits or emotional upheavals. You hum along to the Chili Peppers in coffee shops. They're background muzak as your sat-nav guides you to Worksop. The world turns. Monday's here again. You finger-tap along to 'By The Way'. A sigh. A yawn. A shrug. The grave draws ever nearer.

5 SHUT UP ABOUT CALIFORNIA ALREADY JESUS CHRIST

Every band is allowed to write one song about their hometown. To date, the Chili Peppers have written 3,236 songs about California. Knock it off, lads. Be reasonable.

NME

RHCP: The massive stats

Love them or hate them, they're ridiculously big

53.2 MILLION
The amount of albums they've sold worldwide

16
They've been nominated for 16 Grammy Awards and won six of them

258,000
The band played to a combined 258,000 people over three nights at London's Hyde Park in 2003

£11,744,736.61
The amount the three shows at Hyde Park accumulated in ticket sales

118 MILLION
The single 'Californication' has been streamed on Spotify 118 million times

PHOTO: EBET ROBERTS / REDFERNS

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field music
commontime
also on vinyl

eleanor friedberger
new view
also on vinyl

parquet courts
human performance
also on vinyl

savages
adore life
also on vinyl

white denim
stiff
also on vinyl

james blake
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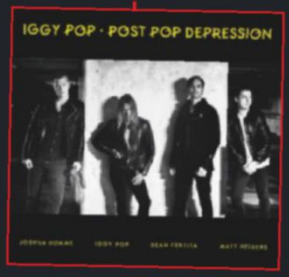

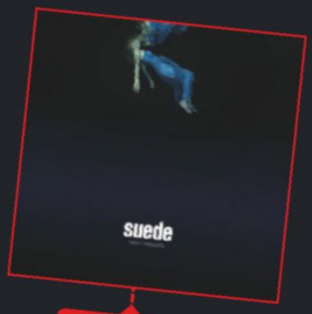

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Best NEW tracks
And when to drop them

BEST FOR BOOSTING YOUR CONFIDENCE
CLAMS CASINO FEAT. LIL B
Witness
The 29-year-old producer, AKA Michael Volpe from New Jersey, enlists Lil B for this hulking slice of hip-hop braggadocio: "*My life's a movie but no, I'm not an actor.*"

BEST FOR DIRTY DANCING
JOEY PURP FEAT. CHANCE THE RAPPER
Girls @
This SaveMoney track's beat is as spare as Azealia Banks' '212', but is so immediate it sounds like one of Pharrell's.

BEST FOR TWITTER ADDICTS
UNKNOWN MORTAL ORCHESTRA
First World Problem
The Kiwi/US psych band are on explosively synthy form on this surprise follow-up to last year's 'Multi-Love'.

BEST FOR CURTAIN TWITCHERS
FAT JOE & REMY MA FEAT. JAY Z
All The Way Up (Remix)
Jay Z addresses the speculation caused by Beyoncé's 'Lemonade' over pulsing beats: their marriage is "*worth millions – lemonade is a popular drink and it still is*". Huh.

BEST FOR BLASTING OFF THE COBWEBS
THE LAPELLES
Grab Life By
A thundering example of why these five 19-year-old indie lads from Glasgow are already supporting the likes of The Last Shadow Puppets and The View.

BEST FOR WEEKEND WASHOUTS
CASS MCCOMBS
Opposite House
You can always rely on Cass McCombs for a beautiful guitar line. Here he puts it to melancholy use: "*Why does it rain inside?*"

BEST FOR LATE-NIGHT LISTENING
CADENZA FEAT. AVELINO & ASSASSIN
No Drama
22-year-old Londoner Avelino is the real star of this smoky cut from rising producer Cadenza – his gravelly rap sounds like Tyler, The Creator's.

For more new music, go to NME.com

BECK

BEST FOR BEING SPONTANEOUS
BECK
Wow
Mixing it up once again, pop genius Beck goes hip-hop with big beats, siren-style synths and a swaggering chorus that'll storm Glastonbury.

BEST FOR CHILLING IN THE SUN
NAO
Girlfriend
The East Londoner's fluttering soprano lingers behind the beat on this sublime, synth-powered track of what she's calling 'wonky funk'. Works for us.

BEST FOR BLASTING AWAY TENSION
BIFFY CLYRO
'Animal Style'
"*Can you realise my head's a f**king carnival?*" roars Simon Neil on this bruising, wounded rocker. July's album 'Ellipsis' is already sounding great.

PHOTOS: CALEB COPPOLA

Twincredible!

The formerly indie Quin twins smash into the mainstream with a perfectly formed record full of buoyant pop songs

TEGAN AND SARA
Love You To Death
★★★★★
TWINS POP AWESOME

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

EIGHT ALBUMS INTO THEIR career, Canadian twins Tegan and Sara have made their definitive record. 2013's 'Heartthrob', which boasted the pounding 'Closer', revealed the former indie rockers as a force to reckon with in the pop world. If that album was a surprise left hook, 'Love You To Death' is an indisputable KO.

From the kaleidoscopic swirl of opening track 'That Girl' to the crystalline sheen of power ballad 'White Knuckles', the Quin twins are relentless in their quest to move our hearts and feet – often in different directions. Like Robyn's stone-cold 2010 classic 'Dancing On My Own', these are buoyant pop songs with a heavy heart – their lyrics dealing respectively with "*getting sick and tired of things getting tough*" and "*breaking each other like knuckles in a fight*". On first listen, they appear to reveal romantic relationships gone wrong, although the musicians have admitted that they're directed at one another, referencing disputes that nearly broke up the band. Well, it must sometimes get rough when you write, record and tour with a sibling for almost 20 years.

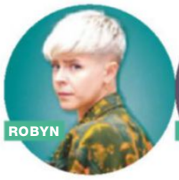
Light, airy ballad of regret '100x' (released with an unbearably cute, tongue-in-cheek video of pooches enjoying a wind machine caressing their fur in slow-mo) continues in this vein, although the emotional heft of the album is anything but one-note. 'Dying To Know' whirls around the listener like a post-breakup maelstrom of pain and bewilderment: "*You hurt me bad / I wanna understand / Hit me back / Because you owe me that*." Meanwhile 'U-Turn', clocking in at under three minutes, is glorious, strutting pop-funk, a sassy paean to maturity: "*Gonna sit myself down / Rein my pride in / Start to focus / Change who I've been*." The latter is directed at a romantic partner whom the narrator has vowed to finally fully appreciate.

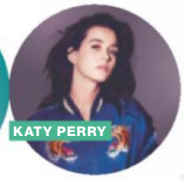
It's the shimmering highlight of an album packed with shimmering highlights, though the centrepiece here is the pulsating lead single 'Boyfriend', as Tegan and Sara finger-snap at a same-sex lover unwilling to commit. It's kind of a riposte to Katy Perry's 'I Kissed A Girl'. Katy, here are two contenders for your pop crown.
Jordan Bassett

Tegan (left) and Sara

PHOTOS: AMY BRAMMALL

FOR FANS OF





Hitting their peak

In the wake of a terrible injury, Jamie Hince and Alison Mosshart have made a synthy career highlight

THE KILLS
Ash & Ice
★★★★☆
SYNTHS HEARTBREAK SLEAZE

THE KILLS HAVE always been underdogs. Even after 15 years together, four albums and a heap of acclaim, Jamie Hince and Alison Mosshart's biggest UK headline show remains a gig they played at Brixton Academy in 2011. Not even guitarist Hince becoming a regular in gossip columns during his five-year marriage to supermodel Kate Moss could shunt them into the bright lights.

On 'Ash & Ice' none of that looks set to change, even though their fifth album comes after high drama for the band. Hince recently shut his hand in a car door, leaving him needing a tendon transplant and having to relearn how to play guitar. To make up for his diminished skills he brought in synths and samplers, making the electronics the duo have always flirted with much more pronounced. It's obvious right from the start, as opener 'Doing It To Death' floats along on a rippling synth line that you'd expect to hear in a tropical club anthem.

Despite such flourishes, 'Ash & Ice' still sounds unmistakably Kills. The guitar lines are as fragmented and fractured as before, still coated in filth and sleaze. Their world has expanded more now, bringing influences of blues ('Hum For Your Buzz'), gospel ('Impossible Tracks' samples the drums from Mighty Voices Of Wonder's 'I Thank The Lord') and dancehall (the twerking rhythms of 'Days Of Why And How') to the fore.

For singer Mosshart, her lyrics are much more open. Piano and acoustic ballad 'That Love' has her doomed and destroyed ("*It's over now / That love you're in is f**ked up*"); then she's giving up on 'Hum For Your Buzz' ("*I'm a believer, but I can't think straight… / The hum of the buzz, can't take it no more*") and resigned on 'Bitter Fruit''s twitchy rock ("*I am the seed of a dead age*"). She sings of a love falling apart but manages to sound stronger than ever. The Kills are finally hitting their peak, but a low-key kind of peak.

Rhian Daly

Best track

'Bitter Fruit'

Classic Kills guitars tick over with choppy menace, as Mosshart tries to cut herself free from bad luck and worse relationships.

Music to make you cry

From the ashes of the Smith Westerns, the woozy country soul of Whitney is born. And what a beautiful baby it is

WHITNEY
Light Upon The Lake
★★★★☆
BEAUTY VIBES POSITIVITY

IT TAKES A LOT TO BE HAPPY in music. With their new band Whitney, former Smith Westerns songwriter/guitarist Max Kakacek and drummer Julien Ehrlich have hit upon a sweet spot that not only translates when you listen to their gorgeous debut album 'Light Upon The Lake', but also drives everything they do as a band.

Witness the six-piece Chicago act live and you'll see a mesh of stretched smiles as they play their woozy blend of countrified soul. Positive vibes are as important to their music as their Vox AC30 amps. It's hugely infectious to watch, because it's been such a long time since anybody else in the indie stratosphere has employed such a trait so believably.

With Whitney, it's as if Kakacek and Ehrlich (who here sings lead and plays drums) are two kids who've come from broken homes and suddenly found their stride again. Both were visibly unhappy when Smith Westerns petered out in 2014, which is perhaps why their initial concept for starting Whitney – the name refers to a fictional character; a 'somebody' of their own making to write songs for – was so appealing. From opener 'No Woman', 2016's most affecting and beautiful song, you're with them all the way.

All 10 tracks on 'Light Upon The Lake' share a serene, peaceful bond, with Ehrlich's startling falsetto bringing to mind Bobby Charles and Shuggie Otis, two genial artists whose personalities have always shone through on their records. Childlike, honest and a touch bruised, Ehrlich joins their ranks as a promising young pretender. Kakacek, meanwhile, was always a gifted musician in Smith Westerns. But whereas his tightly wound riffs used to pay homage to the powerful techniques of Britpop-era Noel Gallagher and Bernard Butler, here he plays the subtle card to perfection. The whole band do, with a glorious gospel mood empowering and binding them.

Bass, horns, strings, organ and choir provide the backbone, and when Whitney allow themselves to kick it up a gear and really let rip, as on 'Golden Days' (with its cathartic *"Na na na"* outro) or the George Harrison-meets-The Band magnificence of 'Dave's Song', they're untouchable. "I may or may not have come close to crying," admitted Ehrlich about recording his parts for the album. Listen closely and you might too.
Matt Wilkinson

FOR FANS OF

(L-r:) Whitney's Max Kakacek and Julien Ehrlich

PHOTO: SANDY KIM, GETTY IMAGES

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Whitney
Light Upon The Lake
also on vinyl

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Russell Crowe as Jackson Healy and Ryan Gosling as Holland March

Reinventing Ryan

Ryan Gosling excels as a feckless and cowardly private investigator in a buddy comedy full of wit and energy

THE NICE GUYS
15 *Ryan Gosling, Russell Crowe, Kim Basinger*
★★★★☆
'70S COMEDY FREAKY

RYAN GOSLING HAS BEEN in a dark place for a long time film-wise. Since 2011's *The Ides Of March* he's been mining dark dramas, stepping only briefly into comedy for a small role in last year's *The Big Short*. Yes, his lightest role in five years was in a film about the global economic collapse that nearly bankrupted the entire world. You can see why he'd be keen to decompress.

Gosling lets it all go in *The Nice Guys*, blowing out a comedy performance of screaming, rubber-limbed glee. In leave-it-all-on-the-floor physical terms, it sort of brings to mind Johnny Depp in the first *Pirates Of The Caribbean*, before Captain Jack became schtick. It's that committed.

In this '70s-set new comedy thriller by writer-director Shane Black (*Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*, *Iron Man 3*), Gosling plays Holland March, a goofy private investigator who only takes cases that involve no actual investigation, mostly from confused, rich old ladies. Being an idiot, he one day takes the wrong case, probing the death of a porn actress, Misty Mountains. Holland's half-hearted sleuthing puts him in the path of Jackson Healy (Russell Crowe) – a fellow PI as rigorous and violent as March is feckless and cowardly – whose own investigation involving a missing girl seems enmeshed with March's somehow. These two completely mismatched men team up to crack this one big mystery, and you can imagine how that goes.

While its Raymond Chandler-meets-*Boogie-Nights* story has all the touchstones of film noir – exploited starlets, corrupt cops, silent killers – the crime-solving is almost beside the point. The cracking of the case very often relies on fortuitous coincidence, the two men arriving in the right place at the right time or, in at least one instance, the vital clue literally falling on top of them. That's all just grist for a buddy comedy of tireless wit and energy. Crowe happily takes the position of the gruff straight man, which still gives him the most entertaining role he's had in years, and stands aside to let Gosling throw himself bodily into every comic scenario. Let your freak flag fly a while, Ryan. It suits you. **Olly Richards**

FOR FANS OF

Crowe with Margaret Qualley, who plays missing teen Amelia Kuttner

PHOTOS: REX FEATURES, WARNER BROS ENTERTAINMENT INC

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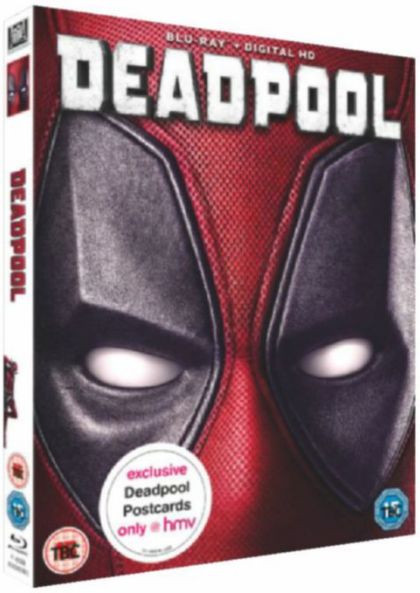

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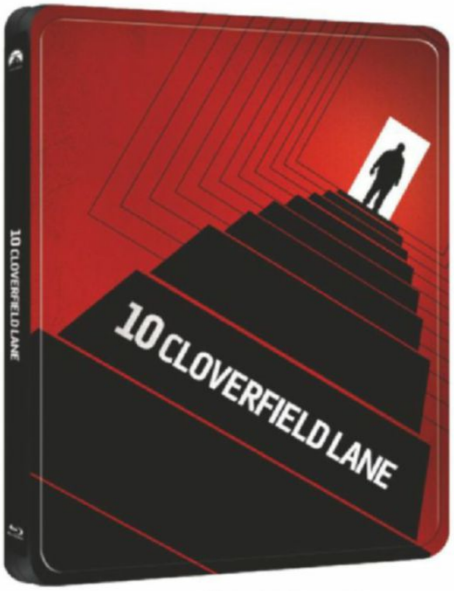

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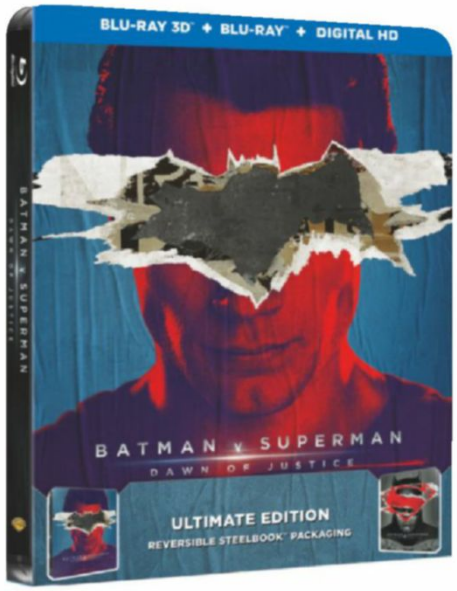

Blu-ray Steelbook
out 1 August

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A boy, played by Gabriel Bateman, is tortured by demons

Raising hell

***Outcast* will fill the *Walking Dead*-shaped hole in your life**

OUTCAST
FOX, June 7
Philip Glenister, Patrick Fugit, Wrenn Schmidt
★★★★☆
EXORCISM | HORROR | FEELINGS

THE WALKING DEAD creator Robert Kirkman has turned his *other* comic, *Outcast,* into a big-budget US series, mixing *Twin Peaks*' brooding atmosphere with *Exorcist*-style horror – and it's already been renewed for a second season. We asked its cast what's new in the world of demonic possession.

How would you compare *Outcast* to *The Walking Dead*?
Reg E. Cathey: "It's almost like a different guy wrote it."
Wrenn Schmidt: "Robert Kirkman turns a genre on its head with both shows. He makes something that could be very simple much more interesting."

Some of the scenes are actually pretty gruesome, aren't they?
Philip Glenister: "That's the difference between British TV and American TV. In America they just show you that in the first minute. There's not that apologist attitude."

How did you find the Southern accent, Phil?
Philip: "I kind of enjoyed it after a while. I started to believe I was from Rock Hill [in South Carolina, where filming took place]. That was the challenge, trying to fool people who started talking to you in the shops."

Did the comics influence you as actors?
Patrick Fugit: "I drew a lot of mood and physicality from the comics initially."
Wrenn: "It was a really good starting point, getting an idea of the world and then walking away from it."
Kate Lyn Sheil: "Some of the physicality of the characters is there in the drawings."
Philip: "I thought my character in the comic looked like a cross between Elton John and Philip Seymour Hoffman. I nearly walked!"

Tell us about the demons in the show.
Philip: "One of the biggest plot points is the Reverend (Glenister) and Kyle (Fugit) figuring out what the rules are – how the demons differ."
Reg: "Something is happening to this little town that's driving everyone a little mad. And that's scary already. Then when you see what it is, it's *really* scary."

The small-town setting is very atmospheric too – is that significant?
Reg: "I spent a lot of time trying to figure out what it represents to Robert Kirkman. Is it just another small town or is he trying to make another statement? That's part of the joy of the show for me."

Do you think demons exist?
Reg: There are cases where something off is happening to a person.
Kate: There was a moment a few years ago where 'bath salts' incidents were rampant.
Reg: 'Bath salts' is a drug that makes people eat people. And *The Walking Dead* was really big so it was a whole 'zombie drug'. This one guy ate his best friend's face. After he came down, he was just crushed.
Kate: So don't do 'bath salts'...

Outcast's key characters

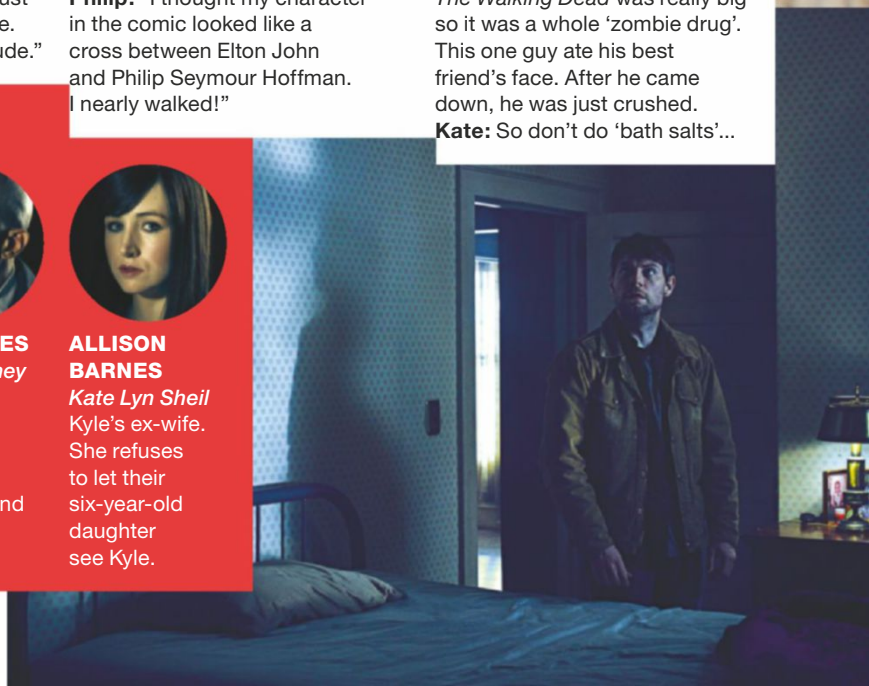
KYLE BARNES
Patrick Fugit
After believing himself mentally ill, he finds out that actually he's a kind of exorcist.

REVEREND ANDERSON
Philip Glenister
He helps Barnes perform exorcisms, and then begins to question his own faith.

MEGAN HOLTER
Wrenn Schmidt
Kyle's adoptive sister, who's troubled by his self-isolation.

CHIEF GILES
Reg E. Cathey
The relaxed town police chief. He's old friends with Reverend Anderson.

ALLISON BARNES
Kate Lyn Sheil
Kyle's ex-wife. She refuses to let their six-year-old daughter see Kyle.



WORDS: LARRY BARTLEET. PHOTO: FOX

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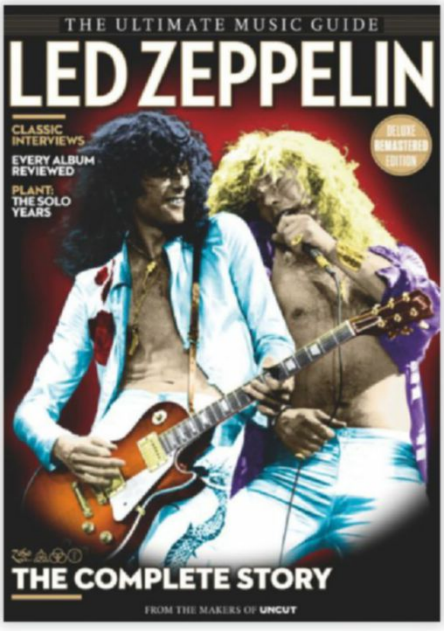

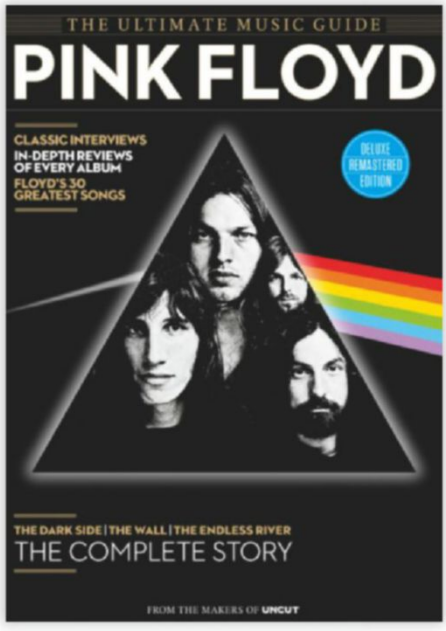
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Allan Kingdom

Rising hip-hop artist who's worked with Kanye West and was rated by Prince

ALLAN KINGDOM, 22, IS A rapper who's been nominated for two Grammy Awards, appeared onstage with Kanye West at the Brit Awards to perform 'All Day' (the fiery, soulful hook of which he worked on) and messed about in the studio with Bon Iver on some as-yet-unreleased tunes.

Things are going well for the guy, but it hasn't always been this way. Born in Winnipeg, Canada, when he was six his dad left him and his scientist mum and moved back to South Africa. Aged eight, Kingdom relocated to Wisconsin, USA, but it was Saint Paul, Minnesota, where he put down roots. This led to a feeling of isolation while growing up. "I didn't feel Canadian until I went to the US," he says. "But then I felt too Canadian. In Toronto I felt too black, too African. I've always felt stuck in the middle. You can hear it in my music."

Kingdom's latest mixtape 'Northern Lights' is his fourth since 2011. It's full of the brooding, synth-laden, sophisticated hip-hop sound that attracted the attention of Kanye and also Prince. A month before the Purple One died, he went to see Kingdom live in Minneapolis.

It wasn't their first encounter. "When I was 19, he did a show at [his house] Paisley Park and wanted to shoot a video," says Kingdom. "He was like, 'I need every cool creative kid from the city here – I wanna capture them on film.' We went there in my mum's van and, kinda like 'Smells Like Teen Spirit', he did a show for us in a tiny room and he was right in front of us with a mic stand and his guitar." The video never came out, but Kingdom says it was a "mad cool" experience. He'd better get used to those.

Alex Flood

PHOTOS: VIVIAN LUXX, JESS BAUMUNG, WILL ROBSON

FOR FANS OF

Best track

'Hypocrite'
(Feat. Jared Evan)
A woozy, sensual number that mixes boom-clap beats with soaring, infectious synths.

Details

BASED Saint Paul, Minnesota

SOCIAL @ALLANKNGDM

BUY 'Northern Lights' is out now

FACT Kingdom has gone by various aliases, including King Kyariga, The Northern Gentleman and Peanut Butter Prince.

For more on Allan Kingdom, go to NME.com

"I've always felt stuck in the middle"

live

THE MOST IMPORTANT GIGS THIS WEEK

CANCER BATS

Fri 3 O2 Academy, Oxford

WHO: Toronto's hardcore punks whose fifth album 'Searching For Zero' came out last year.
WHY: It'll be carnage.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.
TICKETS: £12.65 from ents24.com

AC/DC

Sat 4 Olympic Stadium, London
Thu 9 Etihad Stadium, Manchester

WHO: Legendary rockers whose frontman Brian Johnson was recently replaced for this tour by Guns N' Roses' Axl Rose.
WHY: You're unlikely to get a chance to see this extraordinary band lineup again.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: Nashville rockers Tyler Bryant & The Shakedown.
TICKETS: £60.50-£104.50 from ents24.com

COLDPLAY

Sat 4 & **Sun 5** Etihad Stadium, Manchester
Tue 7 Hampden Park, Glasgow

WHO: Named winners of *NME*'s Godlike Genius Award 2016. You probably haven't heard of them.
WHY: Epic choruses, bombastic visuals and an arena full of happy fans. Coldplay know exactly how to create the right atmosphere.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: Mega-voiced Lianne La Havas, Canadian teen Alessia Cara and Reef – 'Place Your Hands' Reef.
TICKETS: Sold out, but available on secondary ticketing sites from £82

YAK

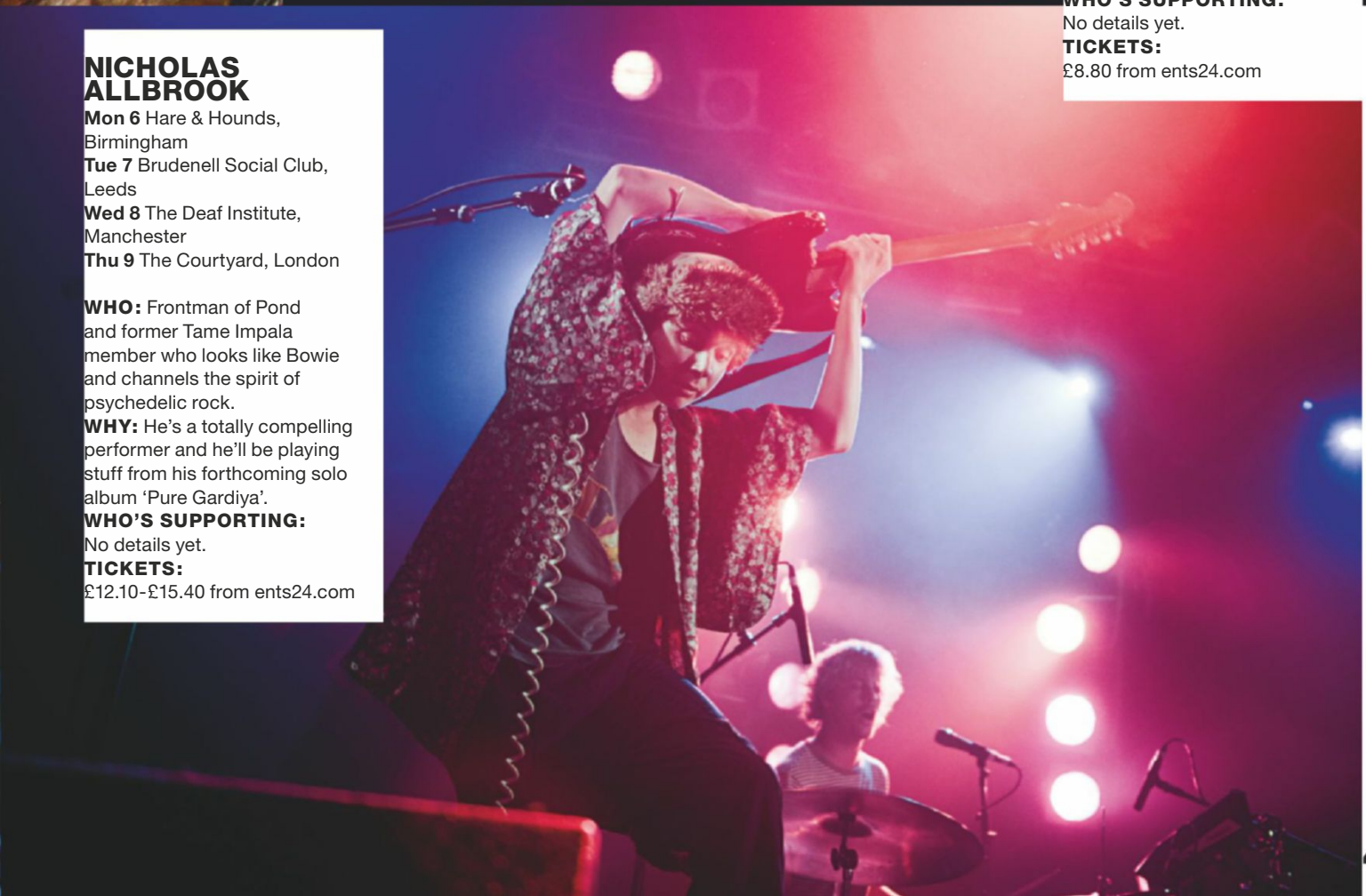
Tue 7 Patterns, Brighton
Wed 8 The Boileroom, Guildford
Thu 9 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff

WHO: London-based trio who make a huge amount of noise and whose recent debut album 'Alas Salvation' is an utter thrill.
WHY: They're one of the most exciting new guitar bands in years.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.
TICKETS: £8.80 from ents24.com

NICHOLAS ALLBROOK

Mon 6 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
Tue 7 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Wed 8 The Deaf Institute, Manchester
Thu 9 The Courtyard, London

WHO: Frontman of Pond and former Tame Impala member who looks like Bowie and channels the spirit of psychedelic rock.
WHY: He's a totally compelling performer and he'll be playing stuff from his forthcoming solo album 'Pure Gardiya'.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.
TICKETS: £12.10-£15.40 from ents24.com



DEFTONES

Fri 3 SSE Arena Wembley, London

WHO: Grammy-winning alt-metal five-piece from Sacramento, California. Eighth album 'Gore' was released earlier this year.
WHY: For British fans this is a huge gig: 12,500 people will be screaming the words to Deftones classics and new songs right back at them.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.
TICKETS: £29.50-£35.50 from nme.com/tickets

NEIL YOUNG & PROMISE OF THE REAL

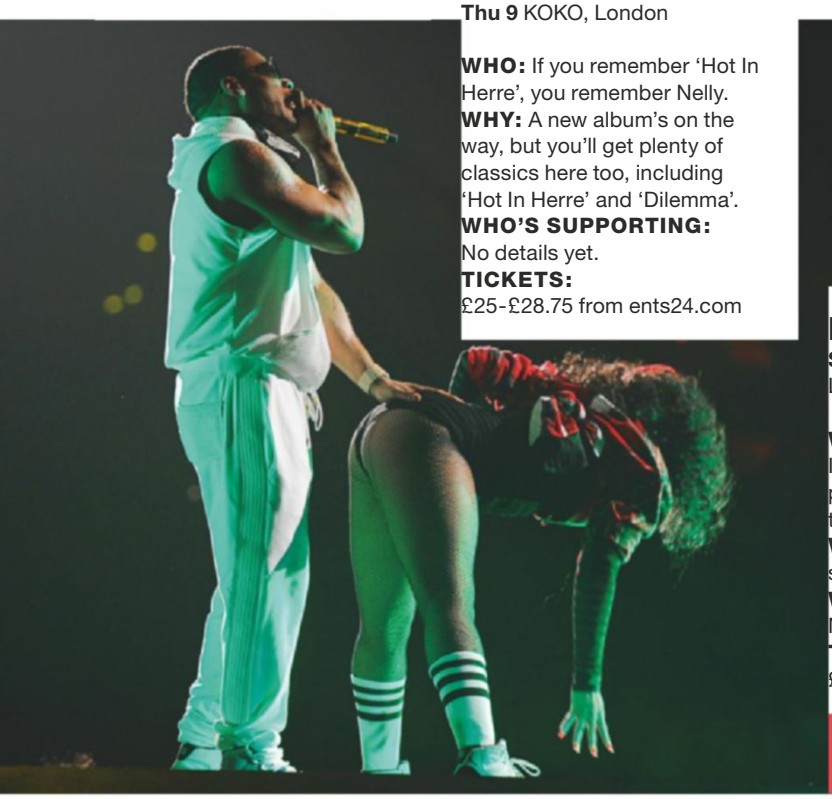
Sun 5 SSE Hydro, Glasgow
Tue 7 SSE Arena, Belfast

WHO: Veteran Canadian musician of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young fame, who's spent recent years promoting his alternative digital music system Pono.
WHY: He's energised by the presence of his young band Promise Of The Real, whom he puts to the test – sometimes playing songs with them for the first time on stage.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: The brilliant Laura Marling. The first song she learnt to play on guitar was actually by Neil Young – 'The Needle And The Damage Done'.
TICKETS: £53.50-£65 from ents24.com

NELLY

Fri 3 O2 Academy, Bristol
Sat 4 O2 Academy, Birmingham
Sun 5 O2 Academy & Underground, Leeds
Mon 6 O2 Academy, Glasgow
Tue 7 O2 Academy, Newcastle
Wed 8 O2 Ritz, Manchester
Thu 9 KOKO, London

WHO: If you remember 'Hot In Herre', you remember Nelly.
WHY: A new album's on the way, but you'll get plenty of classics here too, including 'Hot In Herre' and 'Dilemma'.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.
TICKETS: £25-£28.75 from ents24.com



FREDDIE GIBBS

Sun 5 Village Underground, London

WHO: Rapper from Gary, Indiana, the same magical place that produced MJ (and the other Jacksons).
WHY: He'll 100% take off his shirt, if you're into that.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.
TICKETS: £19.25 from ents24.com

For tour news and live reviews go to NME.com

AMBER ARCADES
Tue 7 The Lexington, London

BEACH SLANG
Tue 7 The Forum, Tunbridge Wells
Wed 8 Dingwalls, London
Thu 9 Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

BEZ
Fri 3 PJ Molloys, Dunfermline
Sat 4 Buskers, Dundee

BIG DEAL
Mon 6 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Tue 7 King Tut's, Glasgow
Wed 8 Sneaky Pete's, Edinburgh
Thu 9 Soup Kitchen, Manchester

BLAENAVON
Fri 3 Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

CHAIRLIFT
Thu 9 Electric Ballroom, London

CLARE MAGUIRE
Mon 6 St Pancras Old Church, London

FUJIYA & MIYAGI
Fri 3 Oslo, London

GABRIELLE APLIN
Thu 9 Kasbah, Coventry

HUDSON MOHAWKE
Fri 3 Concorde 2, Brighton

JOANNA GRUESOME
Fri 3 The Hairy Dog, Derby
Sat 4 Cavern Club, Exeter

JULIANNA BARWICK
Wed 8 The Pickle Factory, London

LIL DICKY
Wed 8 O2 Academy, Islington

LISA HANNIGAN
Sun 5 The Black Box, Belfast

LUKE CHRISTOPHER
Mon 6 Birthdays, London
Tue 7 The Deaf Institute, Manchester

MATT BERRY & THE MAYPOLES
Mon 6 Esquires, Bedford

COASTS
Fri 3 O2 Academy, Birmingham
Sun 5 The Rescue Rooms, Nottingham
Mon 6 O2 Academy, Leicester
Tue 7 Academy, Manchester
Thu 9 The Garage, Glasgow

DILLY DALLY
Wed 8 The Craufurd Arms, Milton Keynes

FATHERSON
Sat 4 The ABC, Glasgow

FRONTEERS
Fri 3 The Joiners, Southampton
Sat 4 The Hope & Ruin, Brighton

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Sat 4 Cardiff City Stadium, Cardiff

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Sun 5 & **Mon 6** The Jazz Café, London

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Sun 5 Palladium, London

MOSES SUMNEY
Mon 6 The Lexington, London

NO JOY
Sun 5 The Boileroom, Guildford
Mon 6 Moth Club, London

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Fri 3 The Pad, Bedford

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Sat 4 Indigo, London
Mon 6 O2 Academy, Oxford
Tue 7 O2 Academy, Sheffield
Wed 8 Picturedrome, Holmfirth

RACHEL DADD
Mon 6 The Hug & Pint, Glasgow

RIVRS
Thu 9 Red Gallery, London

RUFUS WAINWRIGHT
Sat 4 Dome, Brighton
Sun 5 Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff

SHY FX
Sat 4 Concorde 2, Brighton

SKINDRED
Sun 5 Old Fire Station, Bournemouth

STEVE VAI
Fri 3 O2 Academy, Newcastle
Sun 5 O2 Ritz, Manchester
Mon 6 Dome, Brighton
Tue 7 O2 Academy, Bristol

SUNDARA KARMA
Fri 3 The Rainbow Complex, Birmingham

THIS IS THE KIT
Fri 3 The Deaf Institute, Manchester
Sun 5 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds

TITUS ANDRONICUS
Sun 5 Summerhall, Edinburgh
Mon 6 Crescent WMC, York
Tue 7 The Cookie, Leicester
Wed 8 Gwdihw Café Bar, Cardiff
Thu 9 The Dome, London

THE VIEW
Fri 3 Rothes Halls, Glenrothes
Sat 4 Fubar, Stirling

VITAMIN
Fri 3 Studio 24, Leeds

WHITE FANG
Sun 5 The Green Door Store, Brighton

YUNG
Thu 9 The Boileroom, Guildford

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COURTS + ISLE
Fri 3 KOKO, London

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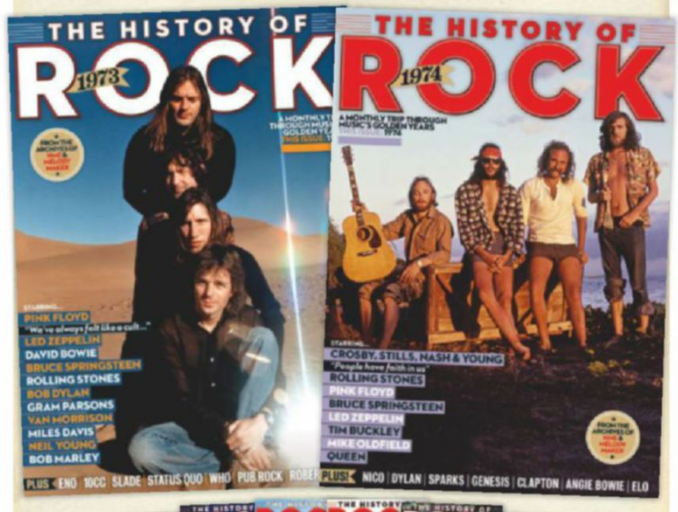

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Kobra and the Lotus

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IN ASSOCIATION WITH
FACTORY MUSIC MANAGEMENT & AGENCY

NOVEMBER 2016

TUE	8	BIRMINGHAM O2 INSTITUTE2
WED	9	GLASGOW THE CLASSIC GRAND
FRI	11	DUBLIN BUTTON FACTORY
SAT	12	MANCHESTER O2 RITZ
SUN	13	LONDON KOKO
TUE	15	NORWICH WATERFRONT
WED	16	SOUTHAMPTON ENGINE ROOMS
THU	17	CARDIFF TRAMSHED

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IN 2016
BRING ME THE HORIZON
WILL TOUR THE UNITED KINGDOM.
THIS IS NOT AN ANNOUNCEMENT.
THIS IS A WARNING.

OCTOBER 2016

SECOND DATE ADDED DUE TO PHENOMENAL DEMAND
31 LONDON THE O2

NOVEMBER 2016
01 BOURNEMOUTH BIC
02 NOTTINGHAM MOTORPOINT ARENA
04 BIRMINGHAM BARCLAYCARD ARENA
05 LONDON THE O2
06 SHEFFIELD ARENA
08 MANCHESTER ARENA
09 GLASGOW THE SSE HYDRO

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MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK

SO LONG, FAREWELL TOUR
PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS
AUGUST 2016
WED 17 MANCHESTER O2 RITZ
THU 18 BIRMINGHAM O2 INSTITUTE 2
FRI 19 LONDON KOKO
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WALKING ON CARS

2016

FINAL TICKETS BOOK NOW
TUE 07 JUN LONDON O2 FORUM

MON 06 JUN BRIGHTON C[SOLD OUT]2
WED 08 JUN BIRMINGHAM [SOLD OUT]MY2
FRI 10 JUN MANCHESTER THE [SOLD OUT]OUNGE

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A LIVE NATION AND SJM PRESENTATION
IN ASSOCIATION WITH CODA

---

3 DOORS DOWN

US AND THE NIGHT TOUR 2016

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

POP EVIL

FALLEN STATE
(BIRMINGHAM, MANCHESTER AND LONDON ONLY)

NOVEMBER 2016

WED	2	BRISTOL O2 ACADEMY
THU	3	BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY
SAT	5	MANCHESTER ACADEMY
SUN	6	LONDON EVENTIM APOLLO HAMMERSMITH

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PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

MONDAY 27 JUNE
OXFORD O2 ACADEMY 2
WITH SAUL WILLIAMS

WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE
BIRMINGHAM O2 INSTITUTE 3

THURSDAY 30 JUNE
LONDON THE GARAGE

FRIDAY 01 JULY
BRIGHTON PATTERNS

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AUGUST ALSINA

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

TUESDAY 14 JUNE
O2 FORUM KENTISH TOWN
LONDON

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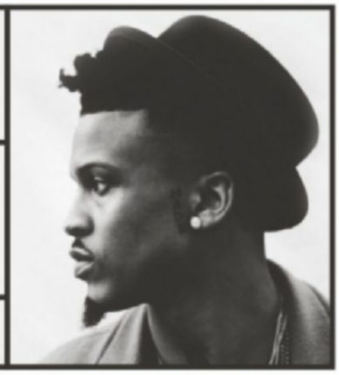

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Wilco

2016 STAR WARS TOUR

FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2016
MANCHESTER ALBERT HALL

SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2016
LONDON O_2 ACADEMY BRIXTON

TICKETS: MYTICKET.CO.UK / SEETICKETS.COM
A KILIMANJARO PRESENTATION

BAND OF SKULLS

20 October - LEEDS Uni Stylus
21 October - MANCHESTER Albert Hall
22 October - NEWCASTLE Northumbria Uni
24 October - BRISTOL SWX
25 October - NOTTINGHAM Rock City
26 October - LONDON Camden Roundhouse
17 November - SOUTHAMPTON Engine Rooms

TICKETS: MYTICKET.CO.UK / SEETICKETS.COM

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TUESDAY 30 & WEDNESDAY 31 AUGUST

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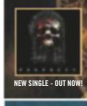
Summer Solstice

FIELDS OF THE NEPHILIM

PLUS VERY SPECIAL GUESTS



Summer
20th June
2016

O_2 FORUM KENTISH TOWN
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IT RUNS DEEP

ACADEMY EVENTS & TINY COW presents

The Enemy

Thu 15th September
MANCHESTER O_2 RITZ
Fri 16th September
LONDON O_2 FORUM KENTISH TOWN
Sat 17th September
COVENTRY
ACADEMY
September
O_2 ACADEMY
Mon 26th September
GLASGOW O_2 ABC
Fri 7th & Sat 8th October
COVENTRY EMPIRE

SOLD OUT

New Shows Announced

Sat 3rd September
LONDON O_2 FORUM KENTISH TOWN
Sun 4th September
BRISTOL O_2 ACADEMY
Wed 7th September
MANCHESTER O_2 RITZ
Thu 8th September
LEICESTER O_2 ACADEMY
Fri 9th September
LIVERPOOL O_2 ACADEMY
Wed 21st September
GLASGOW O_2 ABC
Thu 6th October
COVENTRY EMPIRE

Farewell Tour 2016

tinyCOW

AN ACADEMY EVENTS & FRIENDS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE INDUSTRY GROUP

The Sunshine Underground

FAREWELL TOUR

OCTOBER		
WED 05	LEMON TREE	ABERDEEN
THU 06	KING TUTS	GLASGOW
FRI 07	THINK TANK	NEWCASTLE
SAT 08	QUEENS SOCIAL CLUB	SHEFFIELD
WED 12	GORILLA	MANCHESTER
THU 13	THE SUGARMILL	STOKE ON TRENT
FRI 14	RESCUE ROOMS	NOTTINGHAM
SAT 15	STYLUS UNI	LEEDS
WED 19	THEKLA	BRISTOL
THU 20	O_2 INSTITUTE	BIRMINGHAM
FRI 21	CLWB IFOR BACH	CARDIFF
SAT 22	O_2 SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE	LONDON
WED 26	THE BULLINGDON	OXFORD
THU 27	THE HAUNT	BRIGHTON
FRI 28	WEDGEWOOD ROOMS	PORTSMOUTH
SAT 29	WELLY CLUB	HULL

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM WWW.THESUNSHINEUNDERGROUNDOFFICIAL.COM

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ANVIL

OCTOBER 2016		24	HUDDERSFIELD THE PARISH
20	LONDON O2 ACADEMY2 ISLINGTON	25	GLOUCESTER GUILDHALL
21	MANCHESTER REBELLION	26	DONCASTER DIAMOND
22	EDINBURGH LA BELLE ANGELE	27	GRIMSBY YARDBIRDS
23	CARDIFF THE GLOBE	28	BRISTOL BIERKELLER

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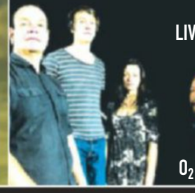
THE WEDDING PRESENT

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS



TUE 6th DECEMBER
LIVERPOOL O_2 ACADEMY2

THU 8th DECEMBER
OXFORD
O_2 ACADEMY2

SAT 10th DECEMBER
LONDON
O_2 ACADEMY2 ISLINGTON

ACADEMY EVENTS BY ARRANGEMENT WITH X-RAY PRESENTS

MASSACRE THE BRIAN JONESTOWN

JUNE 2016
09 GLASGOW Barrowland
10 NEWCASTLE Riverside
13 LEEDS Stylus
14 LIVERPOOL O_2 Academy
18 BRISTOL Bierkeller
19 SOUTHAMPTON Engine Rooms
20 FALMOUTH Pavilion
21 OXFORD O_2 Academy2
23 BRIGHTON SOLD OUT rde 2

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PROMOTER

MÚSICA NO CORAÇÃO

Soundtrack of my life

Ronnie Spector

The Ronettes' legendary frontwoman and rock'n'roll's first bad girl

THE FIRST ALBUM I BOUGHT

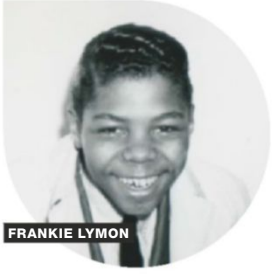
FRANKIE LYMON AND THE TEENAGERS
At The London Palladium

"It was the best. I was, like, 13 years old and I'd never heard 'live' music. I knew every word on that whole album by heart – every single word. Frankie Lymon was definitely everything to me."

THE FIRST SONG I FELL IN LOVE WITH

FRANKIE LYMON AND THE TEENAGERS
Why Do Fools Fall In Love

"Oh my God – well, first of all there was Frankie Lymon's voice. There was something about his voice that pierced me. His diction was so amazing, I couldn't understand how he could speak that clearly. He wrote that song, which made me more interested in him. If it wasn't for Frankie Lymon, I wouldn't be talking to you. He influenced my whole life."



FRANKIE LYMON

THE SHIRELLES

THE SONG THAT REMINDS ME OF STARTING THE RONETTES

THE SHIRELLES
Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow

"In my teens I heard 'Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow' and then I heard The Chantels sing 'Maybe' and I said, 'I wanna sing; I want a girl group!' I'd started the group with my sister and my cousin a few years before that – we were slowly getting our act together. Originally there were five Ronettes, but their parents didn't want them to sing rock'n'roll."

THE FIRST GIG I WENT TO

FRANKIE LYMON AND THE TEENAGERS

"Again, it was Frankie Lymon. Nedra [Talley, from The Ronettes] and I went to Philadelphia with my aunt and uncle. In those days they had a dance contest before the show and whoever won got free tickets. Nedra and I won! They were so great. Frankie Lymon had these dance movements that just blew me away. I just loved everything about it."

THE FIRST SONG I REMEMBER HEARING

HANK WILLIAMS
Jambalaya (On The Bayou)

"When I was real little I remember going to my grandmother's house and I'd sing on the coffee table. It was 'Jambalaya' by Hank Williams, but I never sang the lyrics right. My family, cousins and aunts and uncles would all wait for little Ronnie to sing."

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME DANCE

MICHAEL JACKSON
Billie Jean

"I could dance to that all night. It's a song I really love. It's the beat – if you want to dance, you have to have a beat."

THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

THE RONETTES
Baby, I Love You

"I never liked karaoke – I was never a fan. But one time I did it because my friend's mother had just died. He said, 'Can you please come? I'm so lonely.' My husband and I went over to this karaoke bar and for some reason they recognised me, so they put 'Baby, I Love You' on the karaoke machine. I got up and sang. I kinda liked it!"

THE SONG THAT MADE ME WANT TO MAKE MUSIC

LITTLE RICHARD
Rip It Up

"Back in the '50s you didn't have a lot of groups. I was a kid living with my parents – they controlled the radio. They'd listen to Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole and it was so boring."

Ronnie Spector is on tour in the UK this month

Go to NME.com for more Soundtracks

The wisdom of the *NME* archives

THIS WEEK
FLORENCE WELCH
Siren-like singer
June 6, 2015

"Gigs have this magic thing of absolving. As long as you did a good gig, no matter what's happened, no matter what's going on in your personal life, it's such an exorcism. For me it just resets everything."

INTERVIEW: LEONIE COOPER. PHOTOS: RUVEN AFANADOR/CPI SYNDICATION, REX FEATURES